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THE HOUSE, WINDMILL, FERRY,

THE
Western Sanitary Commission;

A SKETCH

OF ITS ORIGIN, HISTORY, LABORS FOR THE SICK AND
WOUNDED OF THE WESTERN ARMIES. AND AID
GIVEN TO FREEDMEN AND UNION REFUGEEES, WITH INCIDENTS OF
HOSPITAL LIFE.

J. G. Forman



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CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

Origin of Sanitary Commissions—How the Western Commission came to be organized—The Early Battles in Missouri—Want of Preparation for taking care of the Wounded—Order of Maj. Gen. Fremont constituting a Sanitary Commission—Establishment of Military Hospitals in St. Louis—Hospital Cars fitted up on the Pacific R. R.—Voluntary Contributions from New England and the Northwestern States—Loyal Sympathies and Patriotism of the Women of the Country—Incidents.....PP. 3—12

CHAPTER II.

Change of Department Commanders in the West—Gen. Halleek—Large Increase of Troops—Hospitals filled—New Hospitals opened—Prevalence of Measles, Pneumonia, Typhoid Fever and Diarrhea during the fall and winter of 1861—2—Large Arrivals and Distributions of Sanitary Stores—Inspection of Hospitals—Secretaryship of the Commission—Medical Director, J. J. B. Wright—Deficiency of the Medical Supply Table—The Labors of the Loyal and Patriotic Women of St. Louis in the Hospitals—The Employment of Female Nurses—Their Heroism and Self-sacrifice.....PP. 13—22

CHAPTER III.

The Battle of Fort Donelson—Activity of the Western Sanitary Commission—Steamers employed to bring the Wounded to the St. Louis Hospitals—A Delegation from the Commission and the Ladies' Union Aid Society return with a load of the Wounded—Attentions to the Sick—The first Suggestion of Hospital Steamers—The Western Sanitary Commission immediately acted on the Suggestion—The "City of Louisiana" fitted up for this Service—First trip to Island No. 10—Value and usefulness of Hospital Steamers proved by subsequent Experience—Assistant Surgeon General R. C. Wood—Great Demand for Surgeons and Nurses—James M. Barnard, Esq., of Boston—Battle of Pea Ridge—Destitute Condition of the Sick and Wounded—The Hospitals at Cassville—A. W. Plattenburg sent by the Commission with Sanitary Stores—Interesting Account of his Journey and of the good accomplished by it—The Agency Continued—His Future Labors—Testimonials of his Usefulness—Heroism of Mrs. Phelps at Pea Ridge.....PP. 23—34

CHAPTER IV.

Soldiers' Home Established at St. Louis—Premiums Awarded to the Stewards and Ward-masters of the best Hospitals, and to the most Faithful Nurses—The Battle of Pittsburg Landing—Large Number of Wounded—Additional Hospital Steamers furnished—Volunteer Surgeons and Nurses—Additional Hospitals fitted up at St. Louis—Demand for Surgeons—Number of Sick and Wounded in the St. Louis Hospitals—Report of the Commission.....PP. 35--48

CHAPTER V.

Letter of the Commission to the Surgeon General—Scollay's Deodorizing Burial Case—Capture of Fort Pillow and Memphis—Opening of the Mississippi River to Vicksburg—Fitting out of the Naval Hospital Boat "Red Rover"—Arrival of Gen. Curtis' Army at Helena—Its Destitute Condition—Sickness of the Army at Helena—Sanitary Depot Established there—Overton Hospital at Memphis—Sick from the Army in Tennessee—Hospitals and Regiments Supplied—The Navy—Letter from Commodore Davis—An Earnest Appeal from the Commission—Generous Response from New England.....PP. 49--59

CHAPTER VI.

Army of the Frontier—Agent sent to Springfield, Mo., with stores—Battles at Cross Hollows, Cane Hill, and Prairie Grove—Arrival of Rev. Mr. Newell at Fayetteville with ambulances and sanitary goods—His useful services—His death at a later period—Notice of his character—Flying hospitals—Additional hospitals at St. Louis—The Marine, Jefferson Barracks, and Lawson Hospitals—The diminishing per centage of deaths—The hopeful condition of the armies of the Union—The sympathy of the people with the soldiers—Prospects of ultimate victory.....PP. 60--67

CHAPTER VII.

Gen. Sherman's first attack on Vicksburgh—Works assaulted—Severe losses to the Union arms—Hospital steamers bring the wounded to Memphis and St. Louis—Battle of Arkansas Post—More wounded brought to St. Louis—Delegation of the Ladies' Union Aid Society of St. Louis—Iowa State agent—Renewal of the expedition against Vicksburg, by Gen. Grant—Increased hospital accommodations required—Visit of Mr. Yeatman to Gen. Grant's army—His letter—Benton Barracks hospital, St. Louis—Additional hospitals at Memphis—The floating hospital, "City of Alton," the "Ruth," and "Glasgow"—Second visit of Mr. Yeatman to Gen. Grant's army—His report—Sanitary stores sent to Gen. Grant's army—Fall of Vicksburg—Its untitled heroes.....PP. 68--79

CHAPTER VIII.

Soldiers' Homes at Columbus, Ky., Memphis, Vicksburg, and Helena—Over 150,000 soldier guests entertained—Further account of the St. Louis hospitals—Whole number of patients treated—Number of deaths—Per centage of deaths—The military prisons at St. Louis and Alton, Illinois—Humane treatment of sick prisoners.....PP. 80--90

CHAPTER IX.

Sanitary stores sent to the army of Gen. Davidson, at Bloomfield, Missouri—Part of them captured by Guerrillas—Narrow escape of the Agent—Stores sent to the army of General Steele, at Duvall's Bluff and Little Rock—Agency established at Little Rock—Acknowledgements—Stores sent to Fort Blunt, Cherokee Nation—Acknowledgment—Stores sent to colored troops at Miliken's Bend, Goodrich's Landing, and Vicksburg—Letters of Rev. Dr. Eliot and Mr. Yeatman—Books and instruction furnished to colored troops at Benton Barracks—Letter from Colonel A. Watson Webber—Stores sent to Nashville and Murfreesboro, Tenn.—Agency at Huntsville, Ala.—Stores sent to the Naval Flotilla—Veteran Regiments entertained at St. Louis—Stores to the 33d Ills. infantry—Acknowledgment—Stores to Banks' army on Red River—Several important questions answered—Do the Soldiers get any of the Sanitary stores?—Illustration—Accountability of Agents—Hospitals, regiments, hospital steamers and gunboats supplied with Sanitary stores—List of Female Nurses who have proved their worth in the hospitals of St. Louis.....pp. 91—109

CHAPTER X.

The Freedmen of the Mississippi—First efforts for their relief at Helena—Miss Maria R. Mann—Mr. Yeatman's visits to the freedmen, from Island No. 10, to Natchez—Chaplain H. D. Fisher detailed as an Agent of the Commission, to make an appeal for aid, in New England—Generous contributions received—Mr. Yeatman's Report—Condition of the freedmen—The subject presented to the attention of the Government—Mr. W. P. Mellen and Mr. Yeatman return to carry into effect an improved system of leasing the abandoned plantations, and of securing better wages to the laborers—Second visit to Washington—Military protection given—National and other Freedmen's Relief Associations—Messrs. Marsh and Foster go to Vicksburg as agents—Teachers sent—Death of one of the number—4,500 freedmen arrive with the return of Gen. Sherman's army from Meridian—Their condition—Aid given—Union refugees of the Mississippi Valley—Refugee Home at St. Louis—Refugees at Pilot Knob—Labors of Sup't. A. Wright—Refugee Home at Vicksburg—School for refugee childrenpp. 110—128

CHAPTER XI.

Resources of the Western Sanitary Commission—Appropriations by the Governor and Legislature of Missouri—Liberality of St. Louis—Donations from Massachusetts and California—Gifts of the People—Contributions from the Women of the Loyal States—Distributions by the Commission—Number of Articles given—Estimated value one and a half millions of dollars—Expenses of the Commission for Salaries of Agents, Rents, and Distribution of Stores less than one per cent.—Friendship of Major Generals Fremont, Halleck, Curtis, Schofield, Rosecrans, Sherman, and Lieut. Gen. Grant for the Commission—Also, of Assistant Surgeon General Wood, Gen. Allen, Colonels Parsons, Myers, Haines, and Maj. Smith—Ladies' Union Aid Society of St. Louis—Its Work—Receipts and Disbursements—Freedmen's Relief Society of St. Louis—Its Work—Receipts and Disbursements—Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair—Conclusion.....pp. 129—138

THE

Western Sanitary Commission.

CHAPTER I.

ORIGIN OF SANITARY COMMISSIONS—HOW THE WESTERN COMMISSION CAME TO BE ORGANIZED—THE EARLY BATTLES IN MISSOURI—WANT OF PREPARATION FOR TAKING CARE OF THE WOUNDED—ORDER OF MAJ. GEN. FREMONT CONSTITUTING A SANITARY COMMISSION—ESTABLISHMENT OF MILITARY HOSPITALS IN ST. LOUIS—HOSPITAL CARS FITTED UP ON THE PACIFIC R. R.—VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM NEW ENGLAND AND THE NORTH-WESTERN STATES—LOYAL SYMPATHIES AND PATRIOTISM OF THE WOMEN OF THE COUNTRY—INCIDENTS.

THE first organized attempt to mitigate the horrors of war, to prevent disease and save the lives of those engaged in military service, by sanitary measures and a more careful nursing of the sick and wounded, was made by a commission appointed by the British Government during the Crimean war, to inquire into the terrible mortality from disease that attended the British army at Sebastopol, and to apply the needed remedies. It was as a part of this great work that the heroic young Englishwoman, Florence Nightingale, with her army of nurses, went to the Crimea to care for the sick and wounded soldier, to minister in hospitals, and to alleviate suffering and pain, with a self-sacrifice and devotion that has made her name a household word, wherever the English language is spoken. In the armies of France the Sisters of Charity had rendered similar services, and even ministered to the wounded on the battle field; but their labors were a work of religious charity and not an organized sanitary movement.

The experience of armies having shown that not less than five soldiers die of disease to every one killed in battle, it became a problem, whether this immense loss could not be greatly diminished by sanitary means, and the military strength of a people be proportionally increased by a greater economy of life, and the superior health, vigor, and aggressive power of its armies. To this consideration was also added the Christian duty of a people to minister to the comfort and health of men engaged in so perilous a service, leaving their homes and families and kindred to encounter sickness, wounds, and death, for the sake of country and liberty.

The result of the enquiries of the British Commission, and of the researches of medical science has clearly established the fact that the "efficiency of an army must ever depend upon the state of health of the corps which compose it;" and that "the history of war can no longer be confined to bare details of the plans of battles and the manœuvres of armies," but that "we must refer to other elements, and principally to the sanitary condition of troops as the causes of our victories, or the reasons for our disasters." *

The idea of an organization of civilians to look after the health of the armies of the United States, on the breaking out of the present war, and to minister to the sick and wounded, when the great battles should be fought, which it was foreseen must be the inevitable results of the conflict, originated in the minds of humane and patriotic men, who had the welfare of the country, and its noble defenders, at heart, and took form in the summer and autumn of 1861, in the formation of the United States Sanitary Commission, with its centre of operations at Washington, and of the Western Sanitary Commission, with its field of service at St. Louis, and in the armies, the navy and the hospitals of the west.

The noble labors of the U. S. Commission and its subordinate

* The British Army and Miss Nightingale. By Charles Shrimpton, M. D., late Surgeon Major in the French Army, London: Bailliere Brothers, 1864. Quoted in North American Review, April, 1864.

branches having been already recorded in a valuable history,* and in various publications, it is proposed in the present publication to give a sketch of the Western Commission, its modes of operation, its agencies and labors in the western armies and hospitals, its incidental work for the Freedman and Union refugees, and its plans of usefulness for the future of the war.

The organization of the Western Sanitary Commission was the result of circumstances growing out of the war in Missouri; the necessity for it was both sudden and unexpected, and its earliest labors were entirely spontaneous and unpremeditated. The city of Saint Louis had become the Headquarters of the Military Department of the West. During the summer of 1861 the battles of Boonville, Dug Spring, Carthage, and Wilson's Creek, were fought in Missouri, the last on the 10th of August, twelve miles south of Springfield, near the Fayetteville road. This was one of the most desperately fought engagements of the war, and the number of killed and wounded was very great. The wounded, numbering 721, were brought all the way from Springfield to Rolla in ambulances and army wagons, and thence by cars to Saint Louis, and so little preparation had then been made for such an event that there were not additional hospital accommodations for so many in the whole city. The "New House of Refuge Hospital," situated two miles south of St. Louis, had only been opened on the 6th of the same month, by Medical Director De Camp, with Dr. Bailey in charge, two excellent and humane surgeons of the regular army, and was as yet unfinished and unprovided with the requisites of a good hospital. Its condition at the time is thus described in an article in the *North American Review* for April, 1864, entitled "Loyal Work in Missouri." "It had neither stoves, nor bedsteads, nor beds, nor bedding, nor food, nor nurses, nor any thing prepared. The first hundred arrived

*The United States Sanitary Commission, Boston; Little, Brown Company, 1863.

at night. They had been brought in wagons a hundred and twenty miles, over a rough road, by hurried marches, suffering for food and water, from Springfield to Rolla, and thence by rail to Saint Louis to the station on Fourteenth Street. There, having had nothing to eat for ten hours, they were put into furniture carts (much better than those instruments of torture called ambulances) and carried the remaining three miles. Bare walls, bare floors, and an empty kitchen received them ; but the kind-hearted surgeon, Bailey, did all he could to make kindness take the place of good fare. He obtained from the neighbors cooked food for their supper, and lost no time in getting together the various means of comfort. The poor fellows were so shattered and travel-worn that they were thankful enough to get eatable food, with the hard boards to sleep upon, and no word of complaint did we ever hear one of them utter. In the course of the week three or four hundred more were brought in, the condition of things meanwhile rapidly improving ; but so great was the difficulty of obtaining anything that was wanted, that many of the badly wounded men lay there in the same unchanged garments in which they had been brought from the battle-field three weeks before. Every day, however, made things better, and by the end of a month from the first arrivals Dr. Bailey began to say that 'it was not yet what he called a good hospital, but that the men were all comfortable.'"

Arrivals of sick and wounded continued and other accommodations had to be obtained without delay. All the available wards of the Saint Louis Hospital, kept by the Sisters of Charity, and of the City Hospital were immediately taken and filled, and still there was need of more hospitals. The sad and neglected condition of those who were brought from Springfield excited the benevolent and patriotic sympathies of all who loved their country and its brave defenders. The wounds of many had not been dressed since their first dressing after the battle ; others were still suffering from

unextracted bullets and pieces of shell, and the hospitals were unprovided with the necessary hospital clothing to substitute for the soiled clothing of the men, which in many instances were saturated with the blood of their wounds.

It was at this juncture that the Western Sanitary Commission was suddenly called into existence. Miss D. L. Dix, the philanthropist, was then in Saint Louis, and in communication with the new Commander of the Department, Major General Fremont; Mrs. Fremont was also deeply interested in every thing relating to the welfare of the sick and wounded soldier; other persons of humane and patriotic motives and sentiments were personally known to General Fremont, and the suggestion of a Sanitary Commission at Saint Louis, to be subordinate to and act in aid of the Medical Department, coming from such sources, was favorably regarded and carried into immediate effect. An order was issued by him on the 5th of September, appointing the Western Sanitary Commission, in which its duties and sphere of action were thus defined:

“Its general object shall be to carry out, under the properly constituted military authorities, and in compliance with their orders, such sanitary regulations and reforms as the well-being of the soldiers demand.

“This Commission shall have authority—*under the directions of the Medical Director*—to select, fit up and furnish suitable buildings for Army and Brigade Hospitals, in such places and in such manner as circumstances require. It will attend to the selection and appointment of women nurses, under the authority and by the direction of Miss D. L. Dix, General Superintendent of the Nurses of Military Hospitals in the United States. It will co-operate with the surgeons of the several hospitals in providing male nurses, and in whatever manner practicable, and by their consent. It shall have authority to visit the different camps, to consult with the commanding officers, and the colonels and other officers of the several

regiments, with regard to the sanitary and general condition of the troops, and aid them in providing proper means for the preservation of health and prevention of sickness, by supply of wholesome and well cooked food, by good systems of drainage, and other practicable methods. It will obtain from the community at large such additional means of increasing the comfort and promoting the moral and social welfare of the men, in camp and hospital, as may be needed, and cannot be furnished by Government Regulations. It will, from time to time, report directly to the Commander-in-Chief of the Department the condition of the camps and hospitals, with such suggestions as can properly be made by a Sanitary Board.

“This Commission is not intended in any way to interfere with the Medical Staff, or other officers of the army, but to co-operate with them, and aid them in the discharge of their present arduous and extraordinary duties. It will be treated by all officers of the army, both regular and volunteer, in this Department, with the respect due to the humane and patriotic motives of the members, and to the authority of the Commander-in-Chief.

“This Sanitary Commission will, for the present, consist of James E. Yeatman, Esq.; C. S. Greeley, Esq.; J. B. Johnson, M. D.; George Partridge, Esq., and the Rev. Wm. G. Eliot, D. D.”

As soon as this order was issued the gentlemen named in it, acting as a Sanitary Commission, commenced their labors in connection with the Medical Department. Their first important work was the fitting up of a new hospital sufficiently large to accommodate at least five hundred patients. Negotiations were opened for renting the large five story marble-fronted building, corner of Fifth and Chesnut streets, which was secured at a reasonable rent. Necessary alterations were made, arrangements for bathing introduced, special diet-kitchens were fitted up, and the whole building furnished with beds and bedding. On the 10th of September it was opened for the reception of patients, under the charge of Surgeon John T.

Hodgen, U. S. V., with a competent corps of Assistant Surgeons, apothecary, steward, ward masters, nurses, &c., under the title of the "City General Hospital."

It was rapidly filled with patients and continued as a military hospital until the autumn of 1863, under the charge of Dr. Hodgen, whose able and faithful services and great surgical skill were fully recognized and appreciated by the Medical Department and by the Western Sanitary Commission, with whom his relations have always been most intimate, and whose members have ever found in him a willing co-worker and friend.

Being located in a central part of the city, convenient to the rail road depots and the river, it was the place of reception of nearly all the severely wounded and the hopelessly sick on their arrival, for which reasons its per centage of deaths was large, being $14\frac{1}{2}$ for a period of nearly two years; but it was one of the best conducted and well managed hospitals in the west.

It was in this building the Western Sanitary Commission commenced its useful and arduous labors, having its office in a small room at the left of the entrance, in the second story, and a store room for sanitary goods in the basement, its members meeting every day for consultation and action; its President, Jas. E. Yeatman, giving his whole time to the work, and having only one man to act as store keeper, porter and clerk, at the small salary of thirty dollars a month; and yet the work went on, each member of the Commission lending a helping hand, boxes of sanitary stores arriving from New England, and from the various towns and cities of the West, prepared and forwarded by the willing hands of the wives and mothers and daughters of the land, and being distributed as needed to the hospitals and camps, and regiments in and around St. Louis, and at more distant posts in the interior of the State.

From September 12th to September 21st, occurred the siege, the battle, and surrender of Lexington, Mo., which threw some three hundred

more wounded men upon the hospitals of St. Louis. During the two months in which these events happened, besides the hospitals already named, five more were added, the Good Samaritan, the Fourth Street or Eliot Hospital, the Pacific, the Post and the Convalescent Hospitals at Benton Barracks.

During the month of October, Maj. Gen. Fremont took the field in person, with an army of twenty thousand troops, and went in pursuit of the rebel Gen. Price, who had retreated from Lexington. This pursuit was continued to Springfield, Mo., under forced marches, and on Gen. Fremont's removal from the command, November 5th, the army was ordered back again by the new commander, Maj. Gen. Hunter. By this long and toilsome march and counter march, many of the troops were broken down, and were transferred to the hospitals.

One of the last acts that Gen. Fremont performed, on leaving St. Louis on this expedition, was an order, alike creditable to his judgment and his humanity, directed to the Western Sanitary Commission, to fit up two hospital cars on the Pacific Railroad, with berths, nurses, cooking arrangements, etc., for the transportation of the sick and wounded, which was done. These were probably the first hospital cars prepared and furnished as such in the United States, and for several months they proved exceedingly useful.

Through all these exciting months the members of the Western Sanitary Commission continued their voluntary labors without abatement, and the fitting up of all these hospitals was left mainly to them by the then acting Medical Director. As sanitary stores were needed, appeals were made through the newspapers and generously responded to by the people of St. Louis. Gradually the work of the Commission became more widely known; some of its members having a large acquaintance in New England, an interest was excited there, and contributions of hospital clothing, bandages, lint, dried and canned fruits, jellies and other delicacies for the sick, began to arrive from that source, and from Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, and other Western States. From

the principal cities and towns of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island; from Boston, Providence and Portsmouth; from Salem, New Bedford, Worcester, Springfield, Cambridge, Cambridgeport, Roxbury, Newton, and many other towns, boxes came filled with new blankets, sheets, comforters, pillows, towels, socks, mittens, bandages, lint, and many little articles of convenience for the soldier's private use, such as needle books, pin cushions, handkerchiefs, games for amusement, little boxes of salve for sores and wounds, all showing the thoughtful sympathy and affection of the noble women of the country for those who had taken up arms to vindicate the majesty of the Government against a most unholy rebellion—a cause in which their own fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons had enlisted that they might preserve the institutions of liberty to themselves and coming generations.

It was an interesting spectacle to see these boxes opened in the store rooms of the Commission, and on examination to find in the socks and mittens (of which there were many thousand pairs, in anticipation of the needs of the winter,) tracts and manuscript letters, full of words of advice, encouragement and sympathy. Sometimes there would be found in the toe of a sock a letter addressed, "To the soldier who shall wear these socks : Be of good cheer! may these socks keep your feet warm, while you stand on your post, or march on to battle and victory!" "May the rebellion soon be subdued, and you have the satisfaction of having aided in the glorious work." Sometimes quite lengthy epistles would be folded up in these presents, with the names and address of the writers given, and we have known some very pleasant correspondence to follow from these friendly missives to the soldiers. In one instance a pocket bible was contained among the sanitary stores, having the name and address of the giver, and was given to an intelligent and faithful soldier at Rolla, who wrote the lady an acknowledgment of the gift, and a very interesting and profitable correspondence resulted.

Sometimes these presents would contain a slip of paper, on which would be written, "Knit by a little girl, eight years of age," and sometimes another would be written, "Knit by E— F—, aged seventy-six years," showing that from childhood to age the women of the country, were heart and hand with their country's defenders, in the war for the preservation of the Union.

From the Northwestern States contributions also came in freely, especially from Wisconsin, where the Rev. H. A. Reid, and his wife, devoted themselves, with a truly Christian zeal, to the work of soliciting supplies. Illinois and Iowa, and Michigan also did their part nobly, and a few gifts were sent from Ohio, though the contributions from that State went mostly to the U. S. Sanitary Commission. The supplies sent from these Western States were largely of canned and dried fruits, jellies, butter, etc., for the use of the sick. In this connection the City of Madison, and all the smaller towns in Wisconsin, the cities of Chicago, Quincy, Alton, Peoria, and the smaller towns in Illinois; the cities of Detroit, Ypsilanti, Marshall, Battle Creek, and other places in Michigan, the cities of Davenport, Dubuque, Keokuk, and the towns of Iowa will be long and gratefully remembered.

CHAPTER II.

CHANGE OF DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS IN THE WEST—GENERAL HALLECK—LARGE INCREASE OF TROOPS—HOSPITALS FILLED—NEW HOSPITALS OPENED—PREVALENCE OF MEASLES, PNEUMONIA, TYPHOID FEVER AND DIARRHEA DURING THE FALL AND WINTER OF 1861-2—LARGE ARRIVALS AND DISTRIBUTIONS OF SANITARY STORES—INSPECTION OF HOSPITALS—SECRETARYSHIP OF THE COMMISSION—MEDICAL DIRECTOR, J. J. B. WRIGHT—DEFICIENCY OF THE MEDICAL SUPPLY TABLE—THE LABORS OF THE LOYAL AND PATRIOTIC WOMEN OF ST. LOUIS IN THE HOSPITALS—THE EMPLOYMENT OF FEMALE NURSES—THEIR HEROISM AND SELF-SACRIFICE.

On the removal of Maj. Gen. Fremont, his successor continued in command but sixteen days, when he was superseded by the appointment of Maj. Gen. Halleck on the 21st of November. The business of recruiting, which had suffered on account of these changes, was now revived and carried forward successfully, until there were encamped at Benton Barracks, during the months of December and January, 1861-'62, over twenty thousand troops, infantry, cavalry, and artillery, from nearly all the Western States. The extensive grounds and barracks prepared by General Fremont were entirely occupied, and the work of military instruction went forward with zeal and energy.

The presence of so many troops in one great encampment, the crowded condition of the barracks, the inexperience of the soldiers in their first encounter with exposure and hardship, the inclemency of the winter months, and the inability of the department to do all that was required, occasioned a large amount of sickness among the different regiments. The most prevalent diseases were measles, pneumonia, typhoid fever, and diarrhea. In one instance, it happened that three hundred, in a single regiment of cavalry, were sick, mostly taken down with measles. In another, the surgeon reported one thousand out of thirteen hundred men, suffering from coughs and

colds. The barracks being rough buildings, with many open cracks, and floors without any space beneath, were far from comfortable, and the regimental hospitals were not well warmed, nor kept at an even temperature, nor properly ventilated. The consequence was that many of the measles patients were afterwards attacked with pneumonia, and died. The small-pox also broke out, and the hospital established on Duncan's Island, (opposite the arsenal, in the Mississippi river,) for this class of patients, was filled and required additional accommodations.

During the months of December and January, the number of sick and wounded in all the hospitals of Saint Louis and vicinity had reached over 2,000, and the labors of the Sanitary Commission were greatly increased. Meetings were held every few days; frequent inspections were made of all the hospitals and camps; reports were prepared and submitted to the commanding general; improvements were introduced; and supplies were forwarded wherever needed.

Besides the hospitals and camps in and around Saint Louis, there were large bodies of troops at Rolla, the terminus of the south-west branch of the Pacific railroad, a point of great strategic importance, and at Tipton and Sedalia, two other important points, and at Ironton, the southern terminus of the Iron Mountain railroad, and at Jefferson City, the capital of the State, where they were encamped for the winter. At these places there was a large amount of sickness and great mortality. The tents and huts in which the soldiers had gone into winter quarters, were poorly ventilated; the hospitals were generally log buildings, very much crowded, badly ventilated, and yet allowing the entrance of draughts of cold air, having also bad floors, through which the dampness ascended from the ground. The soldiers were not yet inured to hardship, and were inexperienced in taking proper care of themselves, and in attending to sanitary and police regulations, and the consequence was a melancholy state of disease and death at those military posts. The writer of this sketch has a sad remem-

brance of the new-made graves at Rolla, which he found there in the spring of 1862, where so many of the Iowa, and Illinois and Missouri troops spent the fall and early part of winter before they went on their victorious march, under General Curtis, through Springfield to Pea Ridge, recovering the ground relinquished by Gen. Hunter, after the removal of Fremont, and driving the rebels from Missouri beyond the Boston Mountains.

But before this march was undertaken, and while the troops lay in their winter encampments, the demands for sanitary stores were incessant, and the supply was always equal to the emergency. From regimental surgeons there was a constant application for additional medicines beyond the allowance afforded by the Medical Department. The old medical supply table was found utterly inadequate to the emergency. Expectorants and other important remedies were in constant demand, and large additions were furnished by the Sanitary Commission. The request was equally urgent for hospital clothing and delicate food for the sick. Large issues were made of blankets, sheets, pillows, pillow slips, comforters, slippers, socks, wrappers, shirts, drawers, bandages, lint, and supplies of farina, jellies, canned and dried fruits, stimulants, &c. Surgeons came into the Sanitary Rooms personally to present their requests, and voluntary agents from Rolla, Jefferson City, Tipton, Sedalia, and Ironton also came, and represented the condition of the hospitals at those posts, to all of which liberal responses were made, goods forwarded, visits made in person by the President and members of the Commission, and members of the Ladies' Union Aid Society, and every thing done that was possible to alleviate suffering and diminish disease.

In these labors the Western Commission received the hearty and cordial support of Major General Halleck, the new commander of the Western Department, and was often favored with the presence at its meetings of his Chief of Staff, Brigadier General George W. Cullum, U. S. A., whose experience and excellent suggestions were of great value.

Up to this period, January, 1862, the Commission had received over five hundred and twenty-five boxes of goods, and distributed over fifteen thousand articles, consisting of hospital clothing, and delicate preparations of food for the sick, besides aiding to furnish many of the general hospitals and supplying the deficiencies of medicine to the regiments.

The work of the Commission during the months of December and January had consisted largely in the visitation and inspection of the camps and hospitals in and around Saint Louis, in efforts for their improvement, in the reception and distribution of sanitary stores, in the employment of female nurses, and in correspondence with the military authorities and the friends of the Union cause in different parts of the country.

In the enlargement of its work it became necessary to procure additional store room for goods, and to employ a Secretary. For a period of three months this position was filled by Rev. J. G. Forman, of Alton, Ill., who resigned it to enter upon his duties as Chaplain of the 3d Missouri volunteers, and Mr. L. B. Ripley succeeded him for several months, when he also resigned and became the Quartermaster of the 33d Missouri volunteers. In May, 1863, Rev. Mr. Forman again became permanently Secretary of the Commission.

In February, 1862, the small room in the Fifth Street Hospital was vacated for the larger rooms, No. 10, North Fifth Street, still occupied by the Commission.

In the month of December the excellent Medical Director, Surgeon De Camp, with whom the Commission had labored in establishing and fitting up the new military hospitals, was superseded by Dr. J. J. B. Wright, U. S. A., and it was some time before the relations of the Commission became entirely harmonious with this officer. Like many of the old army surgeons he was sensitive of any imaginary interference with the Medical Department,

considered it fully competent to manage every thing relating to the health of the army, and had an evident dislike of sanitary commissions, and a disposition to decline all aid from this source. He was in the habit of remarking that the old army had never received any such assistance, and that he saw no reason why the volunteers should have this partiality shown to them. But the Sanitary Commission showed no partialities, and all soldiers of the United States, whether regulars or volunteers, were treated by it precisely alike. The prejudice existing in the minds of the surgeons of the regular army towards the Sanitary Commissions and the surgeons of the volunteer forces has been frequently manifested, and is to be greatly deplored, preventing harmony of action and resulting in much injury to the service.

In the present instance there was great complaint from the surgeons of the volunteer regiments of the deficiency of the medical supply table, and constant applications were made to the Commission for additional medicines. The regimental surgeons stated that they could not get their requisitions answered at the medical purveyor's office; that the articles they most needed were stricken off, the quantities reduced in others, and that their patients could not be properly treated and were dying for want of proper medicines. The difficulty was represented to Maj. Gen. Halleck by the Commission, and he issued an order on the Medical Department to increase its allowances, which order the Medical Director refused to comply with. The matter was referred by Gen. Halleck to Washington, and the result was that in the end the medical supply table for regiments in the field was considerably enlarged. The relations of the Commission afterwards became more harmonious with Medical Director Wright, as he found its services to be really useful and necessary; but, although invited, he never attended its meetings, and always maintained a distant and merely official intercourse with its members.

While the Commission was thus engaged the loyal and patriotic

women of the city were not less active, in works of love for the sick and wounded, and in expressions of encouragement and sympathy for the soldiers in the field. In them the Commission found most energetic and faithful co-workers. At the rooms of the Ladies' Union Aid and of the Fremont Relief Societies, they met daily and cut out hospital garments, employed sewing machines in the making of them, gave occupation and assistance to soldiers' wives and families, received and distributed sanitary stores, visited the sick, carrying with them delicately prepared food and cordials, good religious books, and other reading matter to cheer and comfort them, conversed at their bed-sides, gave them consolation and sympathy, and in many instances gave hope in Christ and confidence in God and heaven to the departing spirit. The labors thus cheerfully performed will not only find an honorable record on earth, but are already registered in heaven.

It would be a grateful task to the writer to name many of those whom he often met in these visitations of mercy in the hospitals, but the fear of wounding by giving publicity to deeds that were not done to secure the world's applauses, and making omissions that would seem like an unjust discrimination, induces him to refrain from the attempt. Some of them were the wives of our best and most loyal citizens, persons of wealth, culture and refinement, who used to sit for hours by the bed-side of the sick and wounded, fanning the fevered brow, reading from some good book, and speaking so hopefully, that their gentle influence was always visible in its effects upon the countenances of those who were the objects of their tender solicitude and care. In one instance, a youth, hardly yet more than a boy, who had been often visited, as his spirit was sinking away from earth, asked one of these goodly women to kiss him for his mother; and the farewell kiss was given, and the spirit of the boy departed, leaving the smile of peace on his fair young face, which his own dear mother could never kiss again.

Among those who thus passed from room to room through the hos-

pitals, giving to one a testament, to another a soldier's prayer-book, to a third a volume of pleasant reading, accompanied always by an expression of friendly interest and sympathy, two sisters from Philadelphia are warmly remembered, who came all the way to Saint Louis, and spent the winter in these holy ministries of love, whose names, like the true sisters of humanity of our own city, I leave unmentioned here, feeling assured that they are all recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life, and written on the tablet of many a soldier's heart.

The following lines, written by a private soldier, addressed to one who had thus ministered to him in sickness, are the fit expression of what was often conveyed in the pleased and grateful countenance of many a sick and dying soldier to the saintly souls of those who came to bless and comfort them in their hours of pain and languishing:

“ From old Saint Paul 'till now,
Of honorable women, not a few
Have left their golden ease in love to do
The saintly work which Christ-like hearts pursue.

“ And such an one art thou! God's fair apostle,
Bearing His love in war's horrific train:
Thy blessed feet follow its ghastly pain—
And misery, and death, without disdain.

“ To one borne from the sullen battle's roar,
Dearer the greeting of thy gentle eyes,
When he, aweary, torn and bleeding lies,
Than all the glory that the victors prize!

“ When peace shall come, and homes shall smile again,
A thousand soldier-hearts in northern climes,
Shall tell their little children in their rhymes,
Of the sweet saints who blessed the old war times.”

The employment of female nurses, and their assignment to duty in the hospitals, was another important service rendered by the President of the commission—a delicate trust—and one attended with many difficulties. The example of Florence Nightingale and her corps of female nurses in the Crimea, and the patriotic sympathies of the women of America with their brothers in arms, led large numbers of them to offer themselves for this service. The natural superiority of women, as nurses, was felt by all, and the government, therefore, determined to make room for a certain proportion of female nurses in the hospitals. Miss D. L. Dix, a lady widely and favorably known by her humanitarian labors for prisoners and the insane, was appointed “Superintendent of Women Nurses,” to determine upon their qualifications, and grant certificates; and only those who had received such certificates, either from her or her agents, were to be employed by the surgeons in charge of general hospitals. The President of the Western Sanitary Commission was made the agent of Miss Dix for the Western Department, and on him the duty devolved of receiving all applications for this branch of the service, determining the qualifications of the applicants, granting the certificates of appointment, and assigning them to duty in the hospitals, on the request of the surgeons in charge for the number required.

The qualifications of women nurses were, that the applicants should be of suitable age, (from 25 to 50 years,) that they should be persons in good health, with sound constitutions, capable of bearing fatigue; that they should be free from levity and frivolity, of an earnest but cheerful spirit; that they should dress in plain colors, and in a manner convenient for their work; that they should be persons of good education; and, that they should be recommended by at least two responsible persons, (their clergyman and physician being preferred,) as to their fitness for this service.

At a later period Surgeon General Wm. A. Hammond issued an order regulating the number of women nurses to be employed in the general

hospitals to one for every twenty beds, afterwards modified to one for every thirty beds, and requiring that no nurses should be employed without the certificate of Miss Dix, or her agents, except on emergencies.

Under these regulations a large number of women nurses were employed in the hospitals of the Western Department, and were allowed a compensation of \$12 per month and transportation from their place of residence, and to it again on their being relieved from duty, with quarters and a ration (or board) in the hospitals. The full number allowed was seldom called for by the surgeons, and in some of the more distant hospitals the regulations were not always complied with, the surgeons in charge often employing persons selected by themselves, and not always such as would have been approved. This practice has recently been prevented by an order from the War Department, prohibiting the payment of all who have not received the proper certificates of approval from Miss Dix, or from those acting with her authority.

The nurses commissioned by the President of the Western Sanitary Commission have generally been such as to do honor to the service, and by their devotion to the sick and wounded soldier, their attention to his diet, their oversight of his welfare, their watchings by his bedside, their kindly presence and cheering influence, they have often turned the balance when poised between life and death, and saved many a soldier and hero to his country and his friends.

The number employed in the hospitals of the Western Department up to the present date, (May, 1864,) holding their certificates from the President of the Western Commission, is two hundred and seventy-three.* A few instances of unworthiness have occurred, and

* In giving this account of women nurses it is proper to state that an order was issued from the Medical Department in October, 1863, directing that certificates should be granted to those nurses who had been for some time in the service, on the recommendation of the surgeons in charge. Under this order about one hundred certificates were sent by mail in answer to such recommendations. It has been since ascertained that some of those for whom certificates were thus obtained were cooks and laundresses, the surgeons in these cases taking the responsibility as to the character of those whom they recommended.

some have failed to meet the requirements of the situation, but generally they have been persons of intelligence, good education, and a credit to humanity, the noblest types "of good, heroic womanhood." Many of them have left homes of comfort and refinement, and the pleasant associations of honored friends and kindred, to engage in this work of self-sacrifice ; some have been closely related to the best and noblest families in the nation, and left all to minister in hospitals for the sake of those who have fought and bled in the sacred cause of human liberty. Others again, have laid down their lives in this holy service, dying of disease incurred in the infected air of the hospital, and passing onward with our departed heroes and martyrs to that higher life where the sounds of war and conflict are hushed in eternal peace.

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CHAPTER III.

THE BATTLE OF FORT DONELSON—ACTIVITY OF THE WESTERN SANITARY COMMISSION—STEAMERS EMPLOYED TO BRING THE WOUNDED TO THE SAINT LOUIS HOSPITALS—A DELEGATION FROM THE COMMISSION AND THE LADIES' UNION AID SOCIETY RETURN WITH A LOAD OF THE WOUNDED—ATTENTIONS TO THE SICK—THE FIRST SUGGESTION OF HOSPITAL STEAMERS—THE WESTERN SANITARY COMMISSION IMMEDIATELY ACTED ON THE SUGGESTION—THE "CITY OF LOUISIANA" FITTED UP FOR THIS SERVICE—FIRST TRIP TO ISLAND NO. 10—VALUE AND USEFULNESS OF HOSPITAL STEAMERS PROVED BY SUBSEQUENT EXPERIENCE—ASSISTANT SURGEON-GENERAL R. C. WOOD—GREAT DEMAND FOR SURGEONS AND NURSES—JAMES M. BARNARD, ESQ., OF BOSTON—BATTLE OF PEA RIDGE—DESTITUTE CONDITION OF THE SICK AND WOUNDED—THE HOSPITALS AT CASSVILLE—A. W. PLATTENBURG SENT BY THE COMMISSION WITH SANITARY STORES—INTERESTING ACCOUNT OF HIS JOURNEY AND OF THE GOOD ACCOMPLISHED BY IT—THE AGENCY CONTINUED—HIS FUTURE LABORS—TESTIMONIALS OF HIS USEFULNESS—HEROISM OF MRS. PHELPS AT PEA RIDGE.

On the 13th, 14th, and 15th of February, 1862, was fought the battle of Fort Donelson, on the Cumberland River in West Tennessee, in which the United States forces under General U. S. Grant, were victorious, compelling the surrender of the Fort, and taking 10,000 prisoners of war under the rebel Brig. Gen. S. B. Buckner. In this battle there were 231 killed and 1,007 wounded of the Confederate forces, and the loss on our own side was much greater, as the rebels fought within their entrenchments and our troops in the open field, where for three nights they lay upon the bare ground in a driving storm of snow and sleet, and renewed the battle from day to day, till victory crowned their arms.

On the news of this battle reaching St. Louis the Western Sanitary Commission made every preparation to assist the Medical Department in the care of the sick and wounded. A member of the Commission, accompanied by a delegation of physicians, nurses, and members of the Ladies' Union Aid Society, and by Surgeon J. H. Grove, U. S. V., proceeded immediately to Cairo by rail, and thence by steamer to Paducah, Ky., at the mouth of the Cumber-

land river, with sanitary stores, to which place the wounded had been brought, where they were most courteously received by Medical Director Simmons, who placed the steamer "*Ben Franklin*" at their service, and ordered a load of the wounded to be put in their charge to bring to St. Louis.

While the boat was being made ready, the ladies of the delegation went on board the various steamers at the landing and gave their kind attentions to the wounded, assisting to wash them, and to promote their comfort in every possible way.

The following account of the return trip is from the report made to the Commission at the time: "Furnished with the order of the Medical Director we visited the various hospitals in Paducah, and selected as many of the wounded as we could safely and comfortably transport to St. Louis. It required twenty-four hours to get 155 patients on board.

"As soon as we got under way, the ladies set to work to wash and cleanse, and comb the hair of the sick and wounded. Warm water, soap, sponge, and flesh brushes were brought in requisition. Not only the face and neck, but the hands and feet, and other parts of the body had to undergo this purifying process. After this, the surgeons, Drs. Grove, Alleyne, and myself, proceeded to dress the wounds and other severe injuries of our patients, in which again we were materially aided by the ladies and gentlemen of our delegation. This process required from three to four hours daily.

"The following was the daily routine: Early in the morning the ladies attended to the ablutions and cleansing of the patients. Breakfast was then served them, after which, a careful surgical and medical examination was gone through. Then came dinner, when they were waited on by all on board who could be spared from duty. After dinner, they were read to, and entertained by conversation. At supper again they had the attentions of all on board. After which we had singing of sacred or national hymns, reading the Scriptures, and prayer."

On arriving at St. Louis the wounded were at once taken in charge by medical officers, acting under the Medical Director, and transferred to the various hospitals.

From this time, general hospitals were established at Paducah and Mound City, and the Western Commission directed a portion of its supplies to those points, and many sanitary stores were also sent directly from the towns and cities of Illinois, accompanied by friends and relatives, and other humane persons, who went to tender their services as nurses, or in any capacity in which they could be useful.

It was during the trip of the St. Louis Sanitary delegation to Paducah, that the idea of hospital steamers was suggested by Dr. Simmons, the Medical Director, and embodied in the report to the Western Commission. He thought it would be wise to procure several good sized steamers and to fit them up as floating hospitals, properly organized with a chief surgeon, assistant surgeons, stewards, nurses, medical and sanitary stores, to accompany the progress of our arms along the western rivers, and to be always ready to receive the sick and wounded, on the occurrence of great battles, and convey them to the general hospitals, already provided farther north. The trip of the "*Ben. Franklin*" was itself a recommendation of the plan, and it was speedily acted upon by the Commission.

At the same meeting at which the above report and suggestions were made, Rev. Wm. G. Eliot, D.D., was requested to address a letter to Maj. Gen. Halleck, setting forth the proposed plan for one or more Floating Hospitals, pledging that the Commission, if the suggestion met with his approbation, would take the whole care and labor of carrying it into execution.

The plan was highly approved by the General commanding, and an order was issued to the chief quartermaster to purchase a steamer suited to the purpose, who, in connection with the Commission, finally selected and chartered the "*City of Louisiana*." On the 20th of March she had been thoroughly furnished as a hospital boat, the Gov-

ernment supplying her with beds and commissary stores, and the Western Sanitary Commission completing her outfit at an expense of \$3000. In addition to this the Commission also provided the assistant surgeons, the apothecary, the male and female nurses, and furnished a full supply of sanitary stores. Her first trip was made to Island No. 10, to await the conflict there, but the place was taken at last by a flank movement of Gen. Pope on New Madrid, without loss of life, and there was no occasion for her service at that time. But it was not long till ample opportunity of usefulness occurred at Pittsburg Landing. On this first trip the President of the Western Sanitary Commission went also, sharing in the general expectation of a terrible battle at Island No. 10.

After the battle of Pittsburg Landing this boat conveyed 3,389 patients to northern hospitals, and was in the spring of 1863, purchased by the Government, remodeled for a permanent floating hospital, with accommodations for five hundred beds, and named the "*R. C. Wood*," in honor of the Assistant Surgeon General of the United States Army, who was the first of the leading surgeons of the regular army to give his sanction and approval to the plan of a Sanitary Commission, and has always given his influence, encouragement, and aid to its beneficent labors, counselled with its members, and carried into effect, in his department, every valuable suggestion it has made.

The "*R. C. Wood*" is a vessel of great speed, and of large dimensions. Her state rooms have been removed, and the whole upper deck made into one large ward, with abundant light admitted, and having excellent means of ventilation, with ample provision of bath rooms, hot and cold water, cooking apartments, nurses' rooms, medical dispensary, laundry, and many other conveniences. With all the requisites of a good hospital on shore, it has the advantage of the fresh breezes and currents of air that are common to the river; and in the heat of summer, by moving on the stream, a delightful ventilation and refreshing breeze are obtained, passing through the sick ward, and

cooling the fevered brows and pulses of the patients on board. During the summer of 1863 this boat made constant trips from the army at Vicksburg, bringing the wounded and sick to the St. Louis hospitals. During her first period of service she was in charge of Dr. Wagener, and is now in charge of Surgeon Thomas F. Azpell, U. S. V. The great utility and valuable service of floating hospitals was soon established and led to the fitting out of several others by the Government.

During the month of February, 1862, the Western Commission distributed 13,250 articles of hospital clothing, food for the sick, bottles of cordials and stimulants, packages of bandages and lint, crutches, back-rests for supporting the head and shoulders, splints, towels, bandages, socks, slippers, books, and packages of reading matter; and the labors of its members were constant and unceasing, frequently occupying the night as well as the day.

The demand for nurses was at this time very great. From the Mound City Hospital, near Cairo, Ill., in charge of Surgeon E. C. Franklin, U. S. V., there was a request at one time for forty nurses, of which only fourteen could be immediately sent. Several surgeons were procured from Boston, Mass., to come out and enter the hospital service, in which the commission had the valuable aid and recommendations of James M. Barnard, Esq., of that city, who has, in a thousand ways, assisted in its work, aided its contributions and given it his best influence and counsel.

On the 7th and 8th of March, 1862, another great battle was fought at Pea Ridge, Ark., in which our forces under Maj. Gen. S. R. Curtis, were victorious over a force of the enemy, three times our number, commanded by Generals Van Dorn, Price, McCulloch and McIntosh. Our killed and wounded numbered one thousand; the loss of the enemy was still greater. The great distance of this battle-field from St. Louis, being two hundred and fifty miles beyond Rolla, the terminus of the South-West Branch of the Pacific railroad, and the

roads being of the very worst description, through a country only half-civilized, mountainous, without bridges, and without hotel accommodations, stripped by the passage of armies of forage for teams and of food for men, subject to raids and murders by guerrilla bands, it was utterly impossible to bring the wounded of Gen. Curtis' army to the hospitals of St. Louis. And what was still worse, the march through the south-west had been undertaken in the winter, over bad roads, with deficient transportation, and the medical department was most miserably provided with the means of taking care of so many wounded. The surgeons were without hospital clothing, without stimulants, so necessary in surgical operations, without bedding for the wounded, and their supply of medicines was exceedingly limited.

The desperate character of the battle had suddenly thrown upon their hands nearly a thousand badly wounded men, in a country thinly settled by a people living mostly in log houses, and having few of the necessaries of life. The court house at Cassville, and all the principal dwellings—there was not a church in the place—were filled, and many wounded were also housed in the same way at Keitsville, so that on approaching these villages every other dwelling seemed to be a hospital, having a red flag floating over it.

In a few instances, wounded officers were conveyed in ambulances all the way to Rolla, and taken home to their friends; and those of our brave troops who were less severely wounded were transported to Springfield, Mo., where the churches and public buildings were converted into hospitals for their use. Passing onward from Rolla to the Army of the South-west, soon after the battle, with the Lyon regiment, to reinforce Gen. Curtis, it was a painful scene to witness wounded men lying in the bottom of open wagons on beds of straw, jolted over the rough ground, on their way to friends living along the route; for among the regiments that fought most bravely and suffered most severely, was Phelps' Missouri six months volunteers, composed of the sons of loyal families, who had lived and suffered in

South-west Missouri from the persecutions of the rebels, many of them having been driven to Rolla as a place of refuge and enlisted there, and such of them as now were wounded were being conveyed to their own homes, or to Springfield, where better hospital accommodations existed. In this city, as we marched through, we found the hospital buildings filled with the wounded from Pea Ridge; and at Cassville, when we reached there, it was a touching sight to behold, as we did, in one room, a row of young men, in the freshness of youth, lying on beds, each having lost a leg, while in other buildings were those who had received all manner of hurts, wounds from pieces of shell, bullet wounds, arms torn and afterwards amputated, and legs taken off, and all bound up, awaiting the dreadful issue of life or death.

But it was with peculiar satisfaction we found that the stores of the Western Sanitary Commission had been received there some days before our arrival, and that the wounded men were lying in clean beds, and clothed with shirts and drawers, instead of the blood-stained garments in which they came from the battle-field. The large supplies, forwarded by the commission, had reached the medical director, Dr. Otterson, and had been put to immediate use; his supply of stimulants had been largely increased, and his sick and wounded were in a comfortable condition.

On the news of this battle reaching St. Louis, the members of the Sanitary Commission worked day and night, packing up sanitary stores, and sent forward Mr. A. W. Plattenburg in charge of hospital supplies, on the 11th of March, who was followed immediately after by another supply of as many more. In this undertaking, Maj. Gen. Halleck furnished every facility in his power, giving to Mr. Plattenburg an order, over his own signature, addressed "to all quartermasters and other officers between St. Louis and Sugar Creek, Ark.," directing them "to furnish every reasonable facility in their power, to forward, *with all possible dispatch*, consistent with safety, the

bearer, Mr. A. W. Plattenburg, and the hospital stores under his care, destined for the wounded in the late battle at Sugar Springs"—afterwards named Pea Ridge.

In his report of his journey and arrival at Cassville with his stores Mr. Plattenburg says :

"I arrived at Rolla, Mo., at four o'clock, p. m., of the same day and was furnished with a horse and transportation for sanitary stores. The first day we proceeded fifteen miles over a road that was as bad as it could be. The day following I rode forty miles and stopped at night with a Union man, who had been robbed of almost everything movable. He had two sons in Phelps' Missouri regiment, one of whom had just died in the Springfield hospital. On Sunday morning I reached Springfield at 10 A. M. The Quartermaster was ordered to furnish transportation by the first train. The wounded from the recent battle were coming in, as well as some rebel prisoners. I visited the post hospital, accompanied by Dr. Ebert. There were one hundred sick and wounded, mostly from Pea Ridge. I examined the hospital very carefully; found a part of the men on the floor, destitute of all comforts. They had neither bed sacks, blankets nor sheets, not even tin cups or a teapot. They were, however, very cheerful. Dr. Ebert, a very kind and attentive surgeon, requested me to procure a wardmaster and matron. I made a requisition upon your Commission for them, as also for a large number of supplies for the hospital, enough to make all the patients as comfortable as possible.

"The train with your stores reached Springfield on Wednesday following, and on Friday were sent forward. Transportation was so insufficient that this delay was unavoidable. The next day, 25th, I arrived at Cassville. Here I found two large tents, six buildings, (among them the court house,) and the tavern, used as hospitals. The patients were lying on the floors, with a little straw under them, and with knapsacks or blankets under their

heads for pillows. They had no comforts of any kind, no change of clothes, but were lying in the clothes they fought in, stiff and dirty with blood and soil. There were four hundred federal wounded here. There was a great deficiency of nurses, detailed men not answering the purpose well. Their sheets had been torn up for bandages, and until Dr. Otterson reached there with his supplies they were poorly furnished with medicines. Stimulants were very much needed to sustain the sinking men, but none were to be had. There were no brooms to sweep with and no mops to wash the rooms. Your stores were here turned over to the brigade surgeon, who opened and distributed them to the different hospitals. Never was a provision train more joyously greeted by starving men than was this ample supply of hospital stores by these sick and suffering soldiers.

“On the next day I went forward to the army, reporting myself to Gen. Curtis, introduced by your letters. I found him in an ordinary tent, without furniture, except a stool and a small cross-legged pine table. The floor was covered with straw, and a roll of blankets constituted his bedding. Being invited, I dined with him upon plain army fare. I then proceeded to Gen. Davis’ position, within one and a half miles of Elk Horn Tavern, where the heaviest fighting was done. I visited the battle-ground, and was filled with astonishment when I saw the strength of the positions out of which our gallant little army had driven the great force opposed to it. Meeting two rebel surgeons one of them said: ‘We are Texans; our army has treated us shamefully; they stampeded, and left us here with our sick and wounded men, and, I will tell you, sir, that for two days we had nothing to give our poor fellows but parched corn and water. Every federal officer and man has treated us like gentlemen, and Gen. Curtis told me that so long as he had a loaf of bread, we should have half it.’ This

was the field where McCulloch and McIntosh were killed while endeavoring to flank the Peoria battery.

"I visited with these surgeons the hospitals at Pineville. No provision whatever had been made by Price, and our scanty supplies had been shared with them. For twenty-five miles around every house was a rebel hospital. We also had three federal hospitals at Pineville, but not to exceed forty patients. At this point there was a total absence of stimulants, and men were dying for want of them. In one place are forty graves of the Iowa Third Cavalry. All the dead of both armies were buried.

"On my return I called on Gen. Curtis at Keitsville, and promised to urge forward the remaining supplies, which would be sufficient to meet all immediate wants. They were duly forwarded, and reached the command in good time. At Cassville I found that Dr. McGugin, of Iowa, who had been working very faithfully among our suffering men, was completely exhausted. At Springfield I found additional supplies, which had been forwarded by your commission. I was assured that they would go forward on the following morning, and they were rolled out to load up before I left. I am fully convinced that no army was (so far as provision for the wounded was concerned,) ever sent into the field in such destitute condition as ours, *except the one that it fought and conquered*. Our preparations were wholly inadequate ; the enemy had, apparently, made none at all.

"The labors of your commission are most highly appreciated by both officers and men. But for the promptness with which your supplies were sent forward, for which you are greatly indebted to the Commanding General, great suffering must have unavoidably occurred. Could the kind and sympathizing men and women of our loyal States, who place these abundant contributions at your command, but see and realize the thrill of joy with which they were received by the suffering ones, who have so bravely and gladly

shed their blood to restore to us a united nation, and to vindicate the majesty of our trampled laws, they would rejoice that they had made the slight sacrifice required to achieve so great a good, and seek, I am sure, to enable you to anticipate rather than to supply, such wants in future.

"Many of these poor sufferers have left distant homes and loving friends ; have been accustomed to receive the tenderest cares and the most watchful sympathy during the slightest indisposition. Now they meet death and grievous wounds, and wasting sickness, in a remote, semi-hostile and thinly settled country, surrounded generally by comparative strangers. And this great sacrifice is most cheerfully made. No word of repining or regret did I hear, but everywhere our gallant men were sustained by an abiding faith that they had suffered and would die, if need be, in a most just and righteous cause."

Mr. Plattenburg's efficiency and usefulness were so satisfactory to the commission, that he was employed from that time as an agent to continue with the Army of the South-west, which he did till the spring of 1863, accompanying it through all its toilsome march from Cassville to Forsyth, returning to St. Louis for sanitary stores, going back to it again overland, and arriving with it at Helena on the following July.

In March, 1863, he proceeded to the vicinity of Vicksburg, with the army of Gen. Grant, remained there in charge of a sanitary boat loaded with stores, and, with his assistants, distributed to the army during the siege of Vicksburg, and after its capture, until the Fall of 1863, when he was sent to the Army of the Cumberland with Gen. Sherman's 15th army corps, and established an agency at Huntsville, Ala., remaining in charge of it till April, 1864, when he resigned his position to attend to interests of his own. During his two years of faithful service, he gained the esteem of the officers of the army, received many testimonials of his great efficiency and

usefulness, and always enjoyed the full confidence and support of the Commission.

In December, 1862, the surgeons of the Army of the South-west united in a testimonial in which they say: "The agent of the Commission, Mr. A. W. Plattenburg has always cheerfully furnished for the use of the sick and the wounded, every thing in his possession. Joining this army just after the battle of Pea Ridge, he came with his abundant stores most providentially, and through all dangers, trials, and vicissitudes he has remained constantly with us, and ever faithful to his mission."

In a letter of Maj. Gen. Curtis, dated March 1st, 1863, he says: "Among the pleasant and grateful recollections of the campaign of the South-west was the arrival of Mr. A. W. Plattenburg, the agent of this noble Commission, just after the battle of Pea Ridge (where the wounded were so unprovided for), with his abundant sanitary stores and supplies of stimulants. In the destitute condition of our hospitals it seemed like a providential interposition in our behalf."

Among the incidents at the battle of Pea Ridge worthy of mention in this connection, were the labors of Mrs. Phelps, who had accompanied her husband, Col. John S. Phelps, with his regiment to the battle-field. While the battle was yet raging, this heroic woman assisted in the care of the wounded; tore up her own garments for bandages, dressed their wounds, cooked food and made soup and broth for them to eat with her own hands, remaining with them as long as there was any thing she could do, and giving not only words but deeds of substantial kindness and sympathy. And wherever the cause of our national Union and its perils shall hereafter be known, "this that this woman hath done shall be remembered as a memorial of her."

CHAPTER IV.

SOLDIERS HOME ESTABLISHED AT ST. LOUIS—PREMIUMS AWARDED TO THE STEWARDS AND WARDMASTERS OF THE BEST HOSPITALS, AND TO THE MOST FAITHFUL NURSES—THE BATTLE OF PITTSBURG LANDING—LARGE NUMBER OF WOUNDED—ADDITIONAL HOSPITAL STEAMERS FURNISHED—VOLUNTEER SURGEONS AND NURSES—ADDITIONAL HOSPITALS FITTED UP AT SAINT LOUIS—DEMAND FOR SURGEONS—NUMBER OF SICK AND WOUNDED IN THE ST. LOUIS HOSPITALS—REPORT OF THE COMMISSION.

On the 13th of March, 1862, a Soldier's Home for discharged and furloughed soldiers passing through the city, was established by the Western Commission, at 29 South Fourth Street, St. Louis, capable of accommodating from fifty to one hundred soldiers daily. It was placed in charge of Rev. Charles Peabody as Superintendent, with Miss A. L. Ostram for Matron, and has afforded many a poor, penniless, and invalid soldier food and lodgings, saved others from the sharpers that lie in wait to impose on the unwary, from exorbitant hotel charges, and from the bad associations and influences of the lower class of hotels; it has been an asylum to many who left the hospitals to go home, not yet fully recovered—some of them returning to their families to die—where on their way they could enjoy a few days of quiet rest, have the aid of the Superintendent in getting their pay and bounty, and the kind attentions of the matron to nurse them and bind up their wounds.

During the first year of its existence, the Soldiers' Home at St. Louis entertained with meals and lodgings, twelve thousand four hundred and ten (12,410) soldier guests, most of them invalids partially restored to health, passing on furlough to their homes, or returning to their regiments.

During its second year to March 12th, 1864, it has entertained eight thousand four hundred and thirty-six (8,436) enlisted men,

making a total of twenty thousand eight hundred and forty-six (20,846) soldiers who have enjoyed the hospitality of this Home in a period of two years. And yet compared with four others afterwards established by the Commission at Columbus, Ky., Memphis, Tenn., Helena, Ark., and Vicksburg, Mississippi, the average number entertained has been much less than at those places. This has been partly owing to its smaller accommodations and partly to its greater distance from the seat of war, as our armies obtained possession of the States bordering on the Mississippi River.

Of the 20,846 soldiers who have been the guests of this Home 5,576 have been from Illinois, 4,615 from Iowa, 4,520 from Missouri, 1,795 from Wisconsin, 1,221 from Indiana, 420 from Michigan, 668 from Ohio, 342 from Minnesota, 136 from Kentucky, 359 from Kansas, 82 from Arkansas, 64 from the Marine Brigade, 111 from the U. S. Regulars, 73 from Nebraska, 576 from other States, and 288 from the Invalid Corps.

The number of meals furnished to soldiers for the two years ending March 12th, 1864, was eighty-five thousand nine hundred and ninety-two (85,992), and the number of lodgings for the same period was twenty-four thousand two hundred and ninety, (24,290). In no case has any charge been made to any of the guests. Besides these, many near relatives, fathers, mothers, and wives of sick or furloughed soldiers, accompanying them, have received the hospitality of the Home, of which no account has been made.

The expense incurred by the Commission in maintaining this institution is about \$3,000 a year, and the value of the rations and fuel furnished by the Government is about \$2,000 more.

The conduct of the soldiers while staying at the Home has generally been respectful, and such as would become good citizens. The hospitality and kind attention given have been almost uniformly received with gratitude. Many on leaving have come to the office and expressed their thanks to the superintendent, and often, although informed that

every thing they had received was freely given, have insisted on bestowing something from their hard earnings to help sustain the institution. On being shown to their rooms at night it has been common to hear such expressions as these: "Oh, Jim, see here, this is a nice fat pillow, as sure as you are born, the first I have seen for six months," to which another would reply, "Yes, Sam, these are pillows, sure enough, and this is a clean soft bed. I tell you what, *this makes me think of home.*"

On Thanksgiving and Christmas and New-Year's days it has been customary to provide some fowls and other extras; and at all times, butter, vegetables, milk, dried and canned fruits and tomatoes have been furnished, in addition to the army ration. Very often expressions are heard at the table, or after meals, indicating the grateful appreciation of the soldier, who has been for months confined to hard bread, salt meat, and coffee, without milk, on finding so wholesome and palatable a change of diet. "Well," says one, "I haven't had so good a meal for two years." "Yes," answers another, "this is pretty good fare; if we could only have such all the time we'd get along first rate. But I expect Uncle Sam does the best he can for us. It's hard getting anything down among them Rebs. The sooner we can clean them out and come home the better."

A reading room is provided at this as well as the other Homes, containing several hundred volumes, and the daily papers and several religious journals are also furnished, so that the soldier is able to pass his time pleasantly and profitably during his short stay. He is thus kept from a desire to roam through the city in search of amusement, and goes on his way refreshed in body and mind.

In the winter of 1863, Miss Ostram, the first matron, after nearly a year of faithful service, was transferred to the Home at Memphis, and the situation remained vacant, for a considerable period, during which Mr. John Gibbon acted as clerk and steward, which position he filled with great fidelity. On his retiring, about six months ago,

it became necessary to fill the situation of matron, when Mrs. J. E. Rice, now performing the duties with satisfaction, was appointed,

The institution has been conducted with eminent success by Mr. Peabody, the Superintendent, who has shown great executive ability in its management, whose courtesy and kindness to the soldier have given him a place in their grateful remembrance, and whose intercourse with the military authorities, and the members of the commission, has always been such as to win their esteem and confidence.

In his last annual report to the Commission (March 12th, 1864) Mr. Peabody very justly remarks upon the benefits to the country arising from sanitary labors, and from such institutions as the Soldiers' Home:

"Observing from the position I have occupied, the wrecks left behind the wake of armies, the conviction forces itself upon me that the labors of the Sanitary Commission, by the immense supplemental aid it has rendered in furnishing sanitary supplies and establishing Soldiers' Homes, have contributed not a little to saving men for the service, as well as rescuing them from death. In prosecuting their wars the ancients had no hospital trains or medical staff in attendance on their armies. In their military movements the sick and wounded soldiers were left behind to die. In these times, and in our unhappy struggle with a giant rebellion, the soldiers are tenderly cared for, not only by the medical department of the army, but by thousands of patriotic hands, working systematically, through thoroughly organized channels, which often reach far beyond the routine of the service. The future historian of this great struggle will be able to show that the very small per cent of loss among our armies, as compared with that of modern European wars is to be attributed largely to what the people themselves have done through organized voluntary labors in behalf of the soldiers.

"Having aided, under your auspices, in the organization of the Soldiers' Home, established in this city, and watched over it daily for two years, I cannot but express the conviction that for the amount

of money expended, this enterprise has brought back in substantial and lasting benefits to the soldiers quite as much as any of the noble undertakings in which your Commission has engaged. It has cheered the disheartened soldier in his toilsome duties. It has saved multitudes from imposition and exactions, and has aided them in securing prompt attention to their just rights. By the substantial comforts and kind attentions which it has afforded it has served to impress on the minds of those who fight our battles the fact that their toils are remembered and their heroic efforts appreciated. Standing in the face of death on the bloody field the recollection of such kind hospitality and attention has served to strengthen their arms and exalt their courage in the deadly conflict. By lending a helping hand to the weak and faltering as they return homewards from their exposures, it has served to assure their friends and the loyal public that the opinion, too current through the land, that the common soldier is always trod upon and abused, is a mistake. It has afforded kind nursing to hundreds of sick and suffering, and by a little care and attention, has saved many valuable lives. It has also afforded the opportunity of impressing moral and religious truth on the minds of the soldiers, and of ministering consolation to some who were just entering upon their last great conflict. In view of the good it has already accomplished, and its capacity for future usefulness to the soldiers and the service, it is warmly commended to your special consideration."

In the early part of April, 1862, the Western Sanitary Commission, wishing to encourage and stimulate a patriotic emulation among the stewards, ward masters, and nurses in the hospitals to excel in their several spheres of duty, and thereby promote the welfare of the sick and wounded, by securing the best possible attention, and the most favorable conditions for recovery, offered a series of premiums as follows, to be paid in gold on the 4th day of the following July:

1. To the head steward of whichever one of the large hospitals

shall have been kept in the best condition, all things considered, and in which the comfort of the patients shall have been uniformly best cared for, in every way, through a term of three months, the sum of TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS.

2. To the head steward of the best of the smaller hospitals, as above estimated, the sum of FIFTEEN DOLLARS.

3. To the best assistant steward in every large hospital, who shall be the most punctual, attentive and diligent in the performance of his duties, the sum of TEN DOLLARS.

4. To the best assistant steward, estimated as above, in all the small hospitals, the sum of EIGHT DOLLARS.

5. To the best ward master in each of the large hospitals, whose ward shall have been uniformly kept in the best and most perfect order, as to cleanliness of beds and bedding, the comfort of the patients, and in all other respects, the sum of TEN DOLLARS.

6. To the best ward master in each of the small hospitals, estimated as above, the sum of EIGHT DOLLARS.

7. To the best twenty nurses, in all the hospitals, who shall remain in service through the three months, and who shall prove themselves the most kind, faithful and attentive, in the discharge of all their duties to the sick, FIVE DOLLARS EACH.

8. To the best culinary department, in all the hospitals—that is, for the best and cleanest kitchen, the best and most wholesome cookery, with the smallest waste, the sum of TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS, the same to be divided between the head cook and assistants, in the hospital to which the prize shall be awarded, in such proportions as may seem just.

9. To the second best kitchen, etc., estimated as above, the sum of FIFTEEN DOLLARS.

10. To every female nurse who shall remain in the service for three months, and shall have given full satisfaction, a certificate shall be awarded, with special vote of thanks,

11. To the best hospital, all things considered, a public expression of thanks shall be given, with the approval of the Medical Director and of the General commanding.

To secure the just award of these premiums and testimonials, the Sanitary Commission will make weekly, or more frequent, visits of inspection to every hospital under direction of the Head Surgeon, and in consultation with him, and a careful record of each visit and its results will be kept.

A monthly inspection will also be made, with the same view, by order of the General commanding.

In offering these premiums, the "Western Sanitary Commission" are actuated by a desire to assist the medical staff in making the military hospitals of the "Department of the Mississippi," the most perfect in the United States.

This undertaking had the sanction of the Commanding General of the Department, and of the Medical Director, and its influence was highly beneficial in stimulating the best endeavors of those who filled the stewardships in the hospitals, and had the immediate care of the sick and wounded—not so much for the sake of the pecuniary rewards as from the consciousness that their labors were carefully noticed and appreciated, which gave an additional spur to their humane interest in the soldier, and excited a laudable and proper ambition to receive the award of well doing.

The persons to whom these awards were finally made were as follows: To Mr. George Thomas, chief steward of the Fifth Street Hospital, \$25; to Mr. Kleuber, chief steward of Camp Benton Hospital, \$15; to Mr. Matthews, assistant steward in the Fifth Street Hospital, \$10; to Messrs. James McCrea, George Miran, and Henry Crawshaw, ward masters in the Fifth Street Hospital each \$10; to Messrs. Loar, Henry Sanders, and James Larkin, nurses in the Fifth Street Hospital, and to Mr. Charles Tising, nurse in the Good Samaritan Hospital, \$5; to the chief cook and assistants in the culinary depart-

ment of the New House of Refuge Hospital, \$25; to the chief cook and assistants in the culinary department of the Camp Benton Hospital, \$15; and to the following female nurses, with certificates and a vote of thanks, \$5 each: Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Ballard, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Aldrich, Mrs. Houghton, Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Ferris, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Plummer, Miss McNair, Mrs. Colfax, Mrs. Barton, Miss Johnson, Miss Clark, Miss Cullom, Miss Ostram, Mrs. Starr, Mrs. Freeman.

On the 6th and 7th of April, 1862, occurred the great battle of Pittsburg Landing, on the Tennessee river, between the Union forces under General Grant, and the rebel forces under General A. S. Johnson and General Beauregard. In this battle, the loss to the Union army was 1,735 killed, and 7,882 wounded; and to the rebels, 1,728 killed, and 8,012 wounded, many of whom fell into our hands.

The news of this terrible battle was brought to St. Louis by telegraph, and Maj. Gen. Halleck immediately addressed a note to the Western Sanitary Commission, requesting its co-operation with the medical and quartermaster's departments in sending steamers, properly fitted up, furnished with medical and sanitary supplies, and a requisite force of surgeons, wound-dressers and nurses to take care of the wounded, and return with them to St. Louis; also in fitting up additional hospital accommodations in this city to receive them.

The following note was received from the Chief Quartermaster:

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION, }
St. Louis, April 10th, 1862. }

JAS. E. YEATMAN, Esq.,

President Western Sanitary Commission:

DEAR SIR: I have arranged with the owners of the steamers "*Continental*," "*Crescent City*" and "*Imperial*," to remain on or go to the Tennessee river for the relief and use of the sick and wounded. In case you find it necessary or desirable, you will please

direct either of these boats to such points as you may deem best for these purposes, and I will settle for the time they are detained in the service, on your certificate. These boats, so taken, are not to be interfered with while in use for hospital purposes.

Respectfully,

LEWIS B. PARSONS,

Capt. and A. Q. M.

The following, of the same date, was also directed to the captain of the steamer "*Empress*," from the same source:

"You will at once proceed to Pittsburg, Tenn., unless otherwise ordered by James E. Yeatman, Esq., President Western Sanitary Commission, who will accompany you on the trip. * * * You will return to this point as soon as you can consistently be discharged from the duty on which you are sent, namely, for 'hospital purposes.'"

The hospital steamer "*City of Louisiana*," arrived on the 9th of April from Pittsburg Landing with three hundred and fifty sick, having left there previous to the battle. On the receipt of the intelligence that a battle had been fought, she returned the next day, to the scene of conflict, with additional sanitary stores.

The steamer "*D. A. January*," which had been purchased by the Government for a hospital steamer, fitted up by the Western Commission, and placed in charge of Surgeon A. H. Hoff, U. S. V., was also sent to Pittsburg Landing. This boat from the date of this battle to the month of August, made eight trips, and conveyed 2,692 patients from ports on the Tennessee and Lower Mississippi rivers to northern hospitals, mostly to the hospitals of Saint Louis. She has been remodeled, in accordance with plans of Surgeon Hoff, and continued in the service, having rendered incalculable benefits, accommodating five hundred patients, and bringing from Vicksburg, Helena, and elsewhere, many thousands of sick and

wounded to St. Louis and affording them the best possible treatment on the way.

On the evening of the 10th of April the steamer "*Empress*," being furnished by the Western Sanitary Commission with a complete outfit of medical and sanitary stores, with a corps of surgeons, wound-dressers, and nurses, both for herself and the large and splendid steamer "*Imperial*," (then on the Tennessee river,) started for Pittsburg Landing, in charge of the President of the Commission (Mr. Yeatman), where, on her arrival, the outfit for the "*Imperial*" was transferred to that boat, and all were loaded with the wounded with as much expedition as was possible.

On this expedition there accompanied Mr. Yeatman Drs. Pollak, Grove, Azpell, May, Bixby, and Barnes, Surgeon Grove, U. S. V., taking charge of the "*Imperial*" on arriving at Pittsburg, with the requisite force of assistant surgeons, stewards, wound-dressers, nurses, etc.

A delegation of noble women from St. Louis, members of the Ladies' Union Aid Society, also accompanied this expedition as volunteer nurses, and rendered invaluable service. Among those now remembered who thus gave their timely aid was Mrs. Washington King, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Perley Child, Mrs. J. E. D. Couzins, Mrs. C. B. Fisk, Mrs. J. Crawshaw, and Miss Patrick.

On the return trip the steamer "*Empress*" was loaded with nine hundred wounded men, her guards, decks, and cabins being filled, and friend and foe alike provided for; for many wounded prisoners fell into our hands on the second day of the battle. The "*Imperial*" also returned loaded in a similar manner, and continued to run for several months as a floating hospital in charge of Surgeon Grove. The "*City of Louisiana*," "*D. A. January*," and the "*Crescent City*," also returned with their cargoes of human lives, and the wounded were received into the hospitals of St. Louis.

The crowded condition of the hospitals and want of room made

it necessary that additional hospital accommodations should be immediately provided. The Western Sanitary Commission proceeded at once to procure two large halls in Arnot's and Thornton's and Pierce's buildings on Chesnut and Walnut streets, and furnished them with beds and furniture and sanitary stores, and with the requisite number of nurses, for the accommodation of three hundred and twenty sick and wounded men.

During the midst of these labors Maj. Gen. Halleck telegraphed the Commission from Pittsburg Landing to send twenty surgeons to that place for duty there. Nine were procured and went forward the same day, and afterwards an additional number.

On the first of May the Commission made a report of its labors, from which the following particulars are selected as completing an outline of its history to this date :

There were then fifteen military hospitals in and about St. Louis, affording accommodations for for 5,750 patients, and a reserve was constantly maintained in readiness by the Commission of 250 beds in addition, making a total of 6,000. The number of patients admitted to that date was 19,467, of whom 1,400 had died ; 15,717 had been furloughed, discharged, or returned to their regiments, and 3,750 remained. There had been 162 additional deaths on floating hospitals in transit, at McDowell's military prison, the St. Louis Arsenal, and at private houses. The number of patients on hand was unusually small, great numbers having been furloughed, in order to relieve the hospitals, pending the expected battle at Corinth.

The Commission had fitted four floating hospitals, regularly employed for the transportation of the sick and wounded in the Department of the Mississippi, the "*City of Louisiana*," Dr. Wagner, the "*D. A. January*," Dr. Huff, the "*Imperial*," Dr. Grove, and the "*Empress*," Dr. Azpell, all very large and fine steamers, altered and arranged for this purpose. They were capable of transporting two thousand sick or wounded men, and were fully provided with

experienced surgeons, assistant surgeons, apothecaries, stewards, dressers, and male and female nurses. They had every convenience that experience could suggest, and were supplied with large reserves of hospital clothing, lint, bandages, delicacies, fruit, &c., that they might be prepared to furnish temporary transports or field hospitals whenever and wherever needed.

As these boats were constantly plying between St. Louis and the immediate vicinity of all probable battle fields, no better method of securing prompt relief wherever needed could have been devised or desired.

The first two of these boats remained permanently in the service, to which others were added at a later period.

The hospital steamer "*City of Memphis*," in charge of Surgeon W. D. Turner, U. S. A., had also been supplied with hospital furniture and stores by the Commission.

There can be no doubt that these floating hospitals have saved hundreds of priceless lives, by transporting the sick and wounded promptly from the field to well regulated hospitals, and by furnishing in transit good surgical attendance and nursing, and comfortable accommodations.

During the eight months the Commission had then existed it had received 985 cases of goods from eighteen States, viz:

Massachusetts.....	223	New Hampshire.....	16
Illinois.....	132	New Jersey.....	11
Wisconsin.....	74	Minnesota.....	10
Rhode Island.....	69	Indiana.....	9
Pennsylvania.....	63	Connecticut.....	7
Missouri.....	61	Vermont.....	6
Iowa.....	57	Maine.....	5
New York.....	51	Delaware.....	4
Michigan.....	40	District of Columbia.....	3
Ohio.....	12	Not ascertained.....	137

Besides these, it had also received large contributions in money and goods from the citizens of St. Louis and vicinity, not included in the above statement, for the reason that they had been received

in bulk, in many instances by the wagon load, and in thousands of small packages.

The articles distributed by the Commission, to that date, numbered 166,288, including 6,813 blankets, 8,065 sheets, 7,034 pillows, 11,545 pillow-cases, 10,443 towels, 5,249 handkerchiefs, 21,577 shirts, 11,159 pair drawers, 19,519 pair socks, 4,384 pair slippers, 1,841 dressing gowns, 1,032 articles of clothing, 18,196 books and pamphlets, 3,084 pads, 981 bottles of domestic wines, 1,459 cans jelly, 2,340 pounds farina, 1,400 cans fruit, and 25,000 miscellaneous articles, such as mittens, games, crutches, work bags, bed pans, spit cups, picket caps, pin cushions, eye shades, slings, india rubber syringes, isinglass plasters, remedies, etc. In addition to these the Commission purchased large numbers of articles for the complete outfit of the city and floating hospitals, and for armies in the field, embracing air and water beds, washing machines, implements of various kinds, barrels of stimulants, (of better quality and in larger supply than furnished by Government,) of eggs and chickens, cases of oranges and lemons, hundreds of pairs of crutches, invalid chairs of novel construction, bedsteads, cots, mattresses, graduated back-rests, stands or stools for the bedside, sideboards for the proper security and arrangement of medicines, disinfectants, splints, and innumerable other articles. Seventy-four hospitals had then been supplied. The demand from every quarter rapidly increased and the distribution had reached the rate of 17,000 articles per week.

Thus the labors of the Commission were greatly increased, and the work of ministering to the sick and wounded went forward night and day. Another great battle, it was expected, would soon occur at Corinth, and the hopes and anxieties of the loyal people of the country were raised to their highest degree of intensity. But the evacuation of that position by the rebel forces, and their escape under their arrogant and boastful commander, General Beauregard, in the presence of the powerful Union army that was arrayed

against them by Maj. Gen. Halleck, now commanding in person, disappointed the public expectation; and, notwithstanding the retreat of the rebels gave us some of the fruits of a decisive victory, yet they were enabled by this movement to get away without any substantial loss, to go and assist in the defense of Richmond, and to transfer the contest to Virginia, where the great battles of the Peninsula followed in the summer of 1862. In the West, it only remained to follow up our naval victories from Island No. 10 to Memphis and Helena, and to hold the ground already gained till another great campaign could be inaugurated in the fall of the same year. It now became necessary to attend to the sick, occasioned by the diseases of camp life, and the malaria of the southern climate, to look after the camps and hospitals in Arkansas and Tennessee, and to continue the supplies to the hospital steamers of the western rivers, and to the general hospitals established at various points from St. Louis to Helena. The labors of the Commission during the summer of 1862 will form the subject of the next chapter.

CHAPTER V.

LETTER OF THE COMMISSION TO THE SURGEON-GENERAL—SCOLLAY'S DEODORIZING BURIAL CASE—CAPTURE OF FORT PILLOW AND MEMPHIS—OPENING OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TO VICKSBURG—FITTING OUT THE NAVAL HOSPITAL BOAT "RED ROVER"—ARRIVAL OF GEN. CURTIS' ARMY AT HELENA—ITS DESTITUTE CONDITION—SICKNESS OF THE ARMY AT HELENA—SANITARY DEPOT ESTABLISHED THERE—OVERTON HOSPITAL AT MEMPHIS—SICK FROM THE ARMY IN TENNESSEE—HOSPITALS AND REGIMENTS SUPPLIED—THE NAVY—LETTER FROM COMMODORE DAVIS—AN EARNEST APPEAL FROM THE COMMISSION—GENEROUS RESPONSE FROM NEW ENGLAND.

THE intimate connection of the Western Sanitary Commission with the hospitals of St. Louis, and of the Department of the Mississippi, and the frequent inspections made by its members, had given opportunity to observe defects, and to suggest remedies. Among the evils that arrested attention was that of insufficient space and air to each patient, many of the hospitals being too much crowded, hindering and preventing the recovery of the sick, especially in cases of typhoid fever, erysipelas, and badly wounded men.

On the 8th of May, the Commission addressed the following communication to the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, at Washington:

SAINT LOUIS, *May 8th.* 1862.

DR. WM. A. HAMMOND,

Surgeon-General U. S. A.:

SIR: The Western Sanitary Commission of the Department of the Mississippi, most respectfully suggest the importance and necessity of some rule or law regulating the amount of space allowed to every patient in hospital. In the absence of such a rule great mistakes are made, and in many hospitals, otherwise well conducted, the beds

are so crowded together, and the number of cubic feet of air to each patient is so inadequate, that fatal consequences result.

The members of the Commission having had large opportunities of observation, confidently express the opinion that not more than half the space necessary for the successful treatment of the sick, and especially of the wounded men, is usually allowed in the general and post hospitals.

By actual measurement they find that the average of square feet on the floor, allowed in some of the best hospitals even, for typhoid and erysipelas and badly wounded patients is only forty or fifty feet per bed, and sometimes less ; and of cubic feet of air only three hundred and fifty to eight hundred feet, little regard being paid to the height of the rooms occupied.

They believe that no degree of cleanliness or care, or of professional skill can remove the evil effects of such over crowding, and that there is no way of preventing its continuance except by positive regulation.

In making these suggestions the Commission has no design of complaint. The hospitals of this department are almost all well conducted and the patients well and skillfully treated, and the surgeons would undoubtedly be glad to have authority to correct the evils referred to. The near approach of warm weather makes the subject one of urgent importance, and it has already become of painful interest to the Commission, during a recent thorough inspection of hospitals, containing over four thousand sick and wounded men, many of whom are seriously suffering from the causes named.

The Commission is of the opinion that the minimum space in well ventilated hospitals should be six hundred and forty cubic feet for each bed, and for typhoid cases, erysipelas, and severely wounded men, not less than twelve hundred feet. Larger space would be desirable, but practical difficulties of various kinds frequently occur to make it unattainable consistently with the general interests of the service.

The Commission therefore respectfully and earnestly submit this matter to the consideration of the Surgeon General, and have the honor to remain,

His obedient servants,

JAMES E. YEATMAN,
C. S. GREELEY,
J. B. JOHNSON,
GEORGE PARTRIDGE,
WM. G. ELIOT.

The subject submitted to the Surgeon General in this letter received his favorable consideration, and in the hospitals afterwards established a sufficient and specified number of cubic feet of air was allowed to each bed. In the case of the Lawson Hospital on Broadway, the regulation has been carried out very thoroughly, and the prescribed number of cubic feet of air allowed to the beds, in the several wards, is lettered over the entrance; the ward having the largest space containing 778 cubic feet to a bed, and the lowest allowance in any ward being 606 cubic feet to a bed.

In the spring of this year a most useful invention was brought to the attention of the Western Commission, designed to afford a safer, cheaper, and better method of preserving the remains of deceased persons without burial, for transportation to friends at a distance, an object greatly desired by those having relations killed in battle, or dying in the military hospitals. The invention bore the name of "Dr. Scollay's Deodorizing Coffin or Burial Case," and was submitted to a series of experiments before a committee of the Commission, consisting of Drs. S. Pollak, Chas. A. Pope, and J. B. Johnson, Rev. M. Schuyler, D. D., and R. R. Hazard, Jr., Esq.

The burial case is thus described in the report of this committee: "Taking the ordinary wooden coffin he [Dr. Scollay] has so improved it as to make it in all respects equal, and in many superior, to the iron, or any other case now in use. The coffin is made

effectually air-tight by a peculiar match joint and a coating of cement, which not only renders it impervious to air and fluid under ordinary pressure, but must greatly preserve the wood from decay. To preserve the coffin from rupture under the extraordinary pressure of the gases arising from decomposition, and to render the escape of such gases impossible, unless *deodorized*, a provision is made which constitutes the principal feature of the improvement. This consists of a deodorizing chamber, placed inside, at the foot of the coffin, of such size and so arranged as not to increase its bulk or alter its form. * * * This chamber is so arranged and divided that the escaping gases pass freely through apertures into the lower division, and thence into the middle apartment, which is filled with a *deodorizing chemical compound*. Through this they pass into the upper apartment, which is furnished with a self-adjusting valve, which yields to a moderate pressure and permits their escape."

The experiments of the committee proved that bodies may be preserved in these burial cases without becoming offensive for many months, not the slightest smell being perceived, even in the warmest weather—in one case after 150 days. In another instance, in which antiseptic agents were used before encasing, it was observed, after nearly two months, that decomposition had been very slight, and the body was quite natural in its appearance, and in a recognizable condition.

The committee concluded their report as follows: "The cases can be furnished at a trifling advance upon the ordinary wooden coffin in general use. They are light for handling and transportation, not liable to explosion, and it is reasonable to believe from the tests already presented that bodies may be kept in them from thirty to fifty days, and perhaps longer, without becoming offensive, and the necessity of immediate burial and a disagreeable interment be avoided."

The subsequent use of these deodorizing coffins, by Mr. Smithers,

government undertaker of this city, has more than established the correctness of the foregoing conclusions. The deodorizing coffin was afterwards sent to Washington, and after a series of experiments there, was approved by the Surgeon General, and Mr. Smithers was contracted with by Colonel Myers, A. Q. M., at St. Louis, to use it in the burial of all soldiers from the hospitals of this city, so that they might afterwards be more conveniently removed by their friends. But the Quartermaster General at Washington disapproved the contract, and it was never carried into effect.

On the 12th of April the gunboats of the Mississippi Naval Squadron left New Madrid, just below Island No. 10, and proceeded down the river to Fort Pillow in Tennessee. An attack was made on the fort the next day, but was not attended with immediate success. On the 4th of May a severe naval battle occurred at this point between our gunboats and a Confederate ram and gunboats from below, who came up and commenced the attack, in the hope of destroying or capturing our naval force, including the mortar boats. The result of the engagement was disastrous to the rebels, one of their boats having been sunk and two others blown up, while their whole fleet was crippled, and withdrew down the river. One of our boats, the "Cincinnati," was disabled, and four of her crew wounded.

On the 4th of June Forts Pillow and Randolph were evacuated by the Confederates, and on the 5th our fleet arrived at Memphis, consisting of the gunboats Benton, Cairo, Carondelet, Louisville, and St. Louis, and the four rams Monarch, Lancaster, No. 3, and the Queen of the West. On the 6th a great naval battle ensued, the Confederates bringing into the engagement the gunboats Beauregard, Little Rebel, General Price, General Bragg, General Lovell, General Van Dorn, Jeff. Thompson, and the Sumpter. The scene of the battle was in front of the city, viewed by thousands of spectators, and the result of an hour's fighting was the destruction of the entire Confederate fleet, which was either sunk, or run ashore, except the General Van Dorn, a

swift vessel, which escaped down the river. By this victory Memphis was captured, and the Mississippi river opened as far down as Vicksburg, against which some naval operations were undertaken, and an attempt made to change the current of the river by a canal, which were afterwards abandoned.

By these events a new field of operations was opened to the Western Sanitary Commission. The naval squadron had now its own sick and wounded to be provided for, and general hospitals were immediately established at Memphis and Jackson, Tenn., and at Helena, Ark.

At a meeting of the Commission held the 22d of May, the President reported that Capt. Wise of the gunboat flotilla had proposed that the steamer "*Red Rover*," a fine large boat, captured from the enemy at Island No. 10, should be fitted up by the Commission, as a floating hospital, for the Mississippi Naval Squadron, towards which he would furnish \$2000, of the expense.

She was accordingly remodeled in her cabin arrangements, and a complete outfit of beds, bedding, furniture, sanitary stores, medical dispensary, etc., supplied by the Commission. the services of surgeons, an apothecary, steward and nurses were engaged, and the boat placed in charge of Dr. Geo. H. Bixby, surgeon, and Dr. Hopkins, assistant surgeon, two thoroughly educated and skillful young physicians who were sent out from Boston by that philanthropist and friend of the soldier, James M. Barnard. Their services were so highly appreciated that, in a few months, they received the unsolicited honor of a regular commission in the U. S. Navy as assistant surgeons. Dr. Bixby has continued in charge of the "*Red Rover*" to the present date, and Dr. Hopkins also remains in the service, in which they have both acquired a high reputation and are greatly esteemed. The expense incurred by the Commission out of its own funds, in fitting up this boat, was \$3,500, which was done with the greatest satisfaction for the brave men who had fought so nobly, and gained so many victories on our western waters.

On the 10th of July the Army of the South-west under Maj. Gen. Curtis, arrived at Helena in a condition of great destitution. The toilsome march from Batesville under the intense heats of summer, the want of provisions, the difficulty of finding water to drink, and what was procured being often muddy and stagnant, caused much sickness to follow the severe privation of the troops on that terrible march, in which the heroes of Pea Ridge fought their way through to a new base of supplies and a river communication with St. Louis.

In midsummer, this army of ten thousand men pitched their tents on the bottom lands of the Mississippi, around, above and below Helena, and on the hill-sides and in the woods lying back of the town, and a more unhealthy location could scarcely have been found. But it was the only situation that could be occupied on the west side of the Mississippi below Memphis; its communication with Little Rock by the Clarendon road, its commercial advantages, its excellent houses, its convenience for storage of commissary and ordnance stores all made it important that it should be held as a military post.

The regiments suddenly changing their mode of life from the rugged and toilsome marches to which they had been accustomed, to one of comparative inactivity, using water from the Mississippi, or from the poor springs and rivulets that were found along the margin of the stagnant cypress swamps that lie back of Helena, it was not surprising that many of these stalwart men were soon brought down with bilious, remittent, intermittent and typhoid fevers, and with diarrhea, so that during the autumn months, the regimental hospitals were filled, and the five churches of the town, with one exception, were all converted into hospitals.

Mr. Plattenburg, the agent of the Commission, who had continued with this army from Pea Ridge through all its lengthy march over the Ozark Mountains and through the plains and bottom lands of Arkansas, by a circuitous route of nearly eight hundred miles, now

opened a depot at Helena, and received a full supply of sanitary stores, which he dispensed liberally to the regimental surgeons for their sick; and to all the troops many articles of comfort were given, such as towels, handkerchiefs, combs, canned fruits, and vegetables, potatoes, onions, &c. These gifts were received with the strongest expressions of gratitude, after so much destitution, hardship and suffering, and did much to prevent disease and alleviate distress.

At Memphis one of the largest and finest buildings in the city, intended originally for a hotel, was taken for hospital purposes, and called "The Overton Hospital." To Surgeon Derby, who was placed in charge of it, frequent shipments of sanitary stores were sent to meet the wants of the sick from the armies of Tennessee.

At St. Louis the work of friendly inspection and oversight of hospitals went on through the summer and autumn of 1862, and large supplies of sanitary goods were sent to the hospitals and regiments, hospital steamers and gunboats, throughout the Departments of Missouri, the Tennessee, and the Mississippi.

The gunboats and naval hospital boat of the Mississippi squadron had also been kept liberally supplied during this year. In September, the following letter was received from Commodore Davis, showing his high appreciation of the services rendered by the Commission :

FLAGSHIP EASTPORT, }
HELENA, September 18, 1862. }

SIR : The present season is about drawing to a close, and upon the recommendation of Dr. Bixby, I have sent the hospital steamer Red Rover to St. Louis, to be properly fitted up for the winter.

I cannot let her return to your vicinity without expressing, in behalf of myself and the officers and crews of the vessels under my command, our heartfelt and grateful acknowledgments for your uniform kindness and attention to the wants of the sick of the squadron.

I beg you to believe that your benevolent labors in our behalf have been fully appreciated.

I have the honor to be, with the utmost respect,

Your obedient servant and friend,

(Signed,)

C. H. DAVIS,

Commodore Commanding Western Flotilla.

JAMES E. YEATMAN, ESQ.,

President Western Sanitary Commission.

Letters were also received from Acting Rear Admiral David D. Porter, and from the Surgeon in Chief of the Naval Flotilla, W. Whelan, in October, expressive of similar sentiments, and acknowledging the receipt of sanitary stores.

The resources of the Commission at this time had become very much reduced. The great battles in Virginia and Maryland, between Generals McClellan and Lee, commencing on the Peninsula, in May, continued before Richmond, and ending at Antietam, in November, had caused all voluntary contributions from New England and the Middle States, to flow in that direction, and the Western Commission had for months been thrown on its own resources and the aid of the citizens of St. Louis. Notwithstanding this diminution of its resources, the Western Commission also responded to the call of the Surgeon General, and forwarded fifty boxes containing supplies of lint, bandages, &c., to Washington.

It now became necessary, however, to issue an earnest appeal for a replenishment of its stores, from which an extract is here given, showing its wants, the extent of its opportunities, and the work to be done.

“The demands upon this Commission are as great as at any previous time, and the field of its labors is daily enlarged. An army of not less than one hundred and fifty thousand men, in Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas and Missouri, and the gunboat flotilla, looks to St. Louis for nearly all its sanitary supplies, and must continue to do so through the

war, as the most convenient and accessible place at all seasons of the year. Heretofore the Commission has been able to meet all requisitions. It has never refused to send liberally and promptly to any point, whatever has been needed to alleviate suffering and to cure or prevent sickness.

“In Missouri, Tennessee and Arkansas, the demand for all kinds of hospital supplies is great, and increasing, for a war of unprecedented malignancy has begun to be waged, and exposures of our brave men both to disease and wounds are fearfully great. Those who are at a distance from the scene of action, can have no adequate idea of the privations and hardships of the service, or of the number of those broken down by it. The casualties of the battle-field are but a small item in the estimate. Forced marches, the murderous rifle of an unseen and skulking enemy, who knows the work of the assassin better than that of the soldier, fill our hospitals, and thin our ranks. To such risks are our sons and kindred exposed from day to day, in defense of the country which we all love so well. Has money any value greater than to supply their need? Ought we to become niggardly in gifts, or weary of work in such a cause? Can the women of America enjoy or *endure* the luxury of peaceful homes, except on condition of giving the labor of their hands and the prayers of their hearts to those who are defending them at such a cost?

* * * * *

“This appeal is most earnestly and affectionately made to all loyal and humane persons in the Union. They have already done much, but redoubled efforts in all departments of the war must now be made. The 600,000 new recruits will not be without their sick and wounded, and many a hard battle must yet be fought. Let the rich give of their abundance. Let the poor spare all they can.

“Especially we appeal to LOYAL WOMEN, wherever they may be. They are the true “Home Guards” of the nation—the ministering angels to sickness and suffering. Without them Sanitary Commissions can do

but a small part of their work, and upon their efficient assistance we principally depend."

This appeal was nobly responded to from New England, Boston alone sending \$9,000 at this time, and a few months later contributing \$50,000 more, for sanitary purposes in the western armies. One noble and patriotic woman in that city, Mrs. Thomas Lamb, has appropriated a room in her own house for the reception of sanitary goods, for the western soldiers, letting it be known to her friends, and the result has been that she has packed and forwarded to this Commission of her own and their contributions, over one hundred boxes of hospital supplies, garments, etc., besides generous sums of money, the boxes ranging in value from \$150 to \$200 each. Other humane and patriotic friends, among them Messrs. James M. Barnard and R. C. Greenleaf, have also labored most indefatigably in the same way, and endeared themselves forever to all who knew of their noble services to the soldiers in the armies of the west. When it is remembered that Massachusetts has had her own sons, mainly in the armies of the Potomac, and in the Department of the South and of the Gulf, and that without neglecting her duty to them, she has made the most generous donations of any other State to our western troops, no one can fail to appreciate so noble an example of disinterested patriotism and benevolence.

CHAPTER VI.

ARMY OF THE FRONTIER—AGENT SENT TO SPRINGFIELD, MO., WITH STORES—BATTLES AT CROSS HOLLOWES, CANE HILL, AND PRAIRIE GROVE—ARRIVAL OF REV. MR. NEWELL AT FAYETTEVILLE WITH AMBULANCES AND SANITARY GOODS—HIS USEFUL SERVICES—HIS DEATH AT A LATER PERIOD—NOTICE OF HIS CHARACTER—FLYING HOSPITALS—ADDITIONAL HOSPITALS AT ST. LOUIS—THE MARINE, JEFFERSON BARRACKS AND LAWSON HOSPITALS—THE DIMINISHING PERCENTAGE OF DEATHS—THE HOPEFUL CONDITION OF THE ARMIES OF THE UNION—THE SYMPATHY OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE SOLDIERS—PROSPECTS OF ULTIMATE VICTORY.

In the Fall of 1862 Brig. Gen. Schofield took command of the Army of the Frontier, beyond Springfield, Mo., and on leaving St. Louis, expressed the desire that the Commission would forward a full supply of sanitary stores to that post. The suggestion was favorably regarded and acted upon, and an agent, Mr. J. E. Telft, sent forward, furnished with every thing necessary as a supplement to the medical stores allowed to the surgeons in the field.

Many supplies had been previously sent to Surgeon Meleher, Medical Director at Springfield, and the additions now made were forwarded in view of the probability of more active hostilities between the Union and rebel forces of the south-west.

This anticipation proved to be well founded. Towards the end of October, in the north-west part of Arkansas, near the old battle-field of Pea Ridge, at Cross Hollows, Gen. Herron had a severe engagement with the enemy; and again on the 28th of November, Gen. Blunt made an attack on Gen. Marmaduke, with about eight thousand men, at Cane Hill, forty-five miles north of Van Buren, in which the rebels were defeated, and retreated to that place. Again, on the 7th of December, the combined Confederate forces, under the command of Gen. Hindman, estimated at fifteen thousand men, attempted to cut off the reinforcements of Gen. Blunt, ten miles south of Fayetteville,

and made an attack on Gen. Herron before he had formed a junction with Gen. Blunt. Gen. Herron's forces, however, held their ground until Gen. Blunt, who was informed of the movement, came upon the rear of the rebel army, at Crawford's Prairie, when there occurred what has since been called the battle of Prairie Grove, in which the rebels were defeated, the loss in killed and wounded on both sides being very great.

The wounded from this battle were removed to Fayetteville, and public buildings and private houses were taken for hospitals; but there was a great deficiency of means to take proper care of the men, the town and the country around it having been greatly impoverished by the war, and the inhabitants being of the poorest class. There was no adequate supply of bandages, lint, bedding, stimulants, nor means of fitting up the empty houses and making them comfortable, nor of cooking food.

Previous to this battle the Commission had sent forward Rev. Frederick R. Newell to Springfield, to take the place of Mr. Tefft, with two ambulances and additional stores, and on hearing of this battle he proceeded on from Springfield to Fayetteville. His arrival was most timely, and, with an earnest devotion to duty, he turned over everything he had to Surgeon Ira Russell, U. S. V., in charge, and Assistant Surgeon Carpenter, and went to work himself at whatever his hands could find to do. For a time he acted as carpenter, ambulance driver, nurse, wound-dresser, and general worker, and in the report afterwards made by the Surgeons, his services were spoken of in the highest terms of commendation.

In the report of Surgeon Russell, he said: "My thanks are due to the Western Sanitary Commission for the valuable aid rendered to the wounded from the battle of Prairie Grove, by its agent, Mr. F. R. Newell." In Dr. Carpenter's report he said: "Mr. Newell's sanitary stores were a perfect God-send to our poor fellows, many of whom had lost nearly all their clothing on the battle field. He made a judicious

distribution of his shirts, drawers, and other articles, among the most needy. He also placed at our disposal two ambulances, without which we could hardly have carried on the hospital. Enough cannot be said of an institution which performs such deeds."

As Mr. Newell has since been removed from his earthly labors to the heavenly life, it is proper that some further mention should here be made of him. After the battle of Prairie Grove he continued for several months to act as the agent of the Western Commission at Springfield, Mo., and in May, 1863, returned to St. Louis, where he was, soon after, elected chaplain of the 1st Missouri State Militia, and assigned, by an order of Maj. Gen. Schofield, to the duty of superintendent of freedmen in this city. For several months he attended to this work in a faithful and conscientious manner, interrupted occasionally by illness, when, on the 8th of January, 1864, after a severe attack of inflammatory rheumatism, he died suddenly, at Benton Barracks, at his post.

As a friend of the poor freedmen and their families, as a Christian minister and a citizen, as a man of amiable, forbearing, and Christ-like spirit, he will be long remembered by those who were associated with him in his labors, and who knew of his fidelity to the cause of his Divine Master.

During the fall of 1863 the idea originated in the Western Sanitary Commission of a Flying Hospital, to accompany the army in the field, prepared for the emergencies of battle, with the means of immediately providing for wounded men. The President of the Commission was authorized to fit out three ambulances, with hospital and shelter tents, cots, bedding, towels, sanitary stores, food, liquors, bandages, lint, sponges, vessels for supplying the wounded with water and stimulants, the whole to be in charge of a competent person, with a corps of male nurses and wound-dressers in attendance, to accompany the army, to be under the direction of the medical director, and ready at all times to assist the surgeons when required. Two pannier mules were also to accompany each ambulance, with straps

and fixtures, by which kegs of water and stimulants, and other articles of immediate utility on the battle field, could be carried on their backs, and be at hand when most needed. The plan was submitted to Assistant Surgeon General Wood, and met with his entire approbation.

The first of these Flying Hospitals was fitted up for Gen. Grant's army, then at Corinth, Miss., and a letter, endorsed by the Assistant Surgeon General, was addressed to Maj. Gen. Grant, asking permission for it to accompany his movements. The Flying Hospital went forward to Lagrange, Tennessee, where the Medical Director, Surgeon Wirtz, refused his sanction, and would not permit it to go any further. The letter to Gen. Grant probably never reached him, as no answer was ever received, and the opposition of his chief surgeon defeated an enterprize which was, in every respect, practicable and unobjectionable, having for its object the better care and prompt relief of our wounded soldiers on the field of battle. Some prejudice against Sanitary Commissions, or too great a readiness to regard their proffered assistance as an interference with official dignity and routine, or some failure of military etiquette, are supposed to have stood in the way of this beneficent project. The mules and ambulances were afterwards returned to the Soldiers' Homes at Columbus and Memphis, where they did good service; the stores were distributed to the sick, and the nurses and wound-dressers performed valuable services in the hospitals at Lagrange and elsewhere.

The outfit of Rev. Mr. Newell, as an agent of the Commission with Gen. Schofield's army, with his ambulances and stores, was similar in its character, and proved exceedingly useful, after the battle of Prairie Grove, though not arriving in time to be present at the battle.

The difficulty of procuring the necessary sanction, and co-operation of the regular army surgeons to such an enterprize has prevented its renewal, although there is never a great battle where these Flying Hospitals would not be of the greatest utility and benefit, and save

many valuable lives. It is due, however, to Assistant Surgeon General Wood, whose humanity is always paramount to official etiquette, to mention the fact of his hearty approval, and that it was at his request that one of these hospitals was sent to the Army of the Frontier, then at Fayetteville, Arkansas.

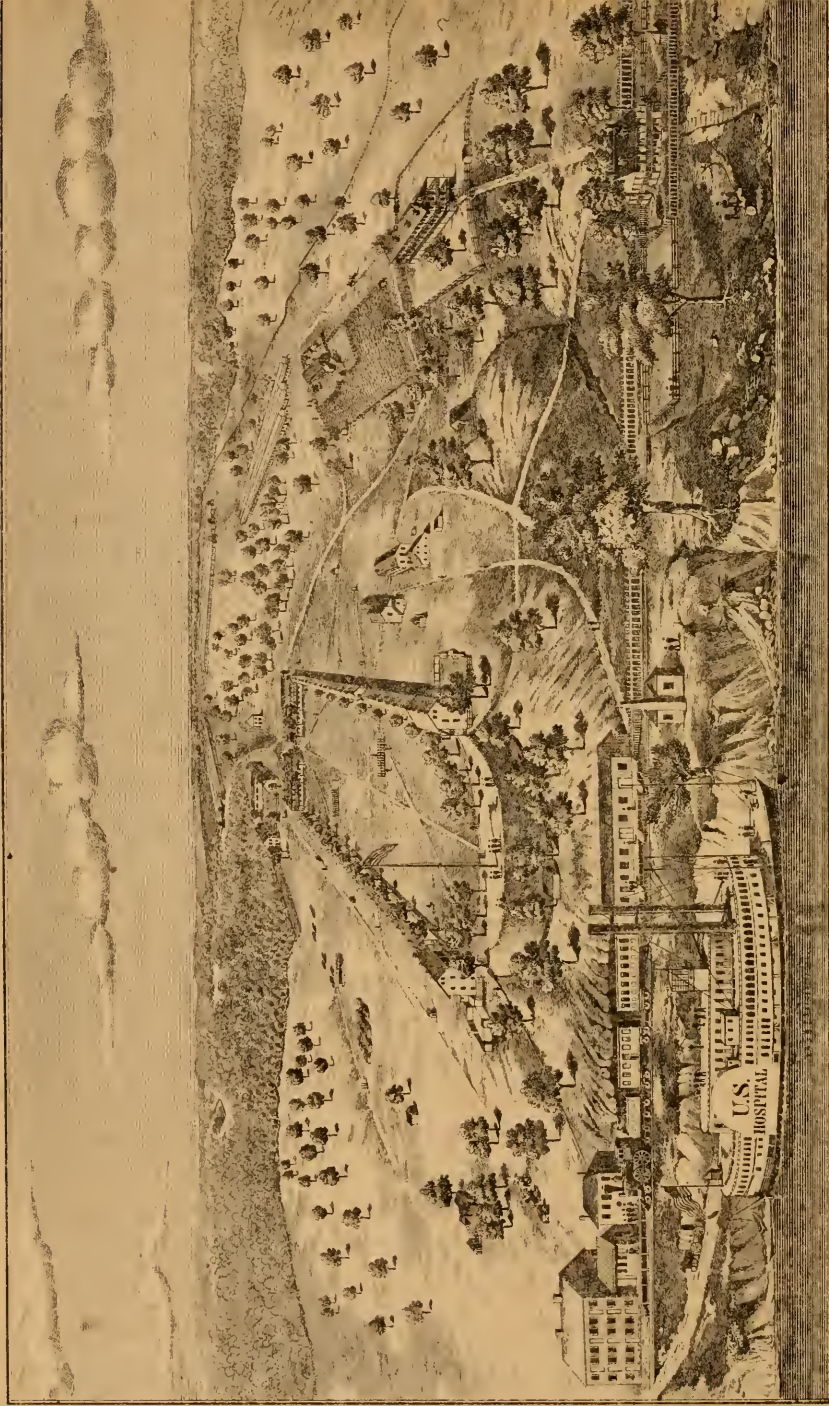
During the present year three additional military hospitals were added to those already established in St. Louis, the Marine, the Jefferson Barracks, and the Lawson Hospitals. The necessity for this arose from the large number of sick brought by the hospital steamers from the armies of the Frontier, the South-west, the Tennessee and the Mississippi.

The Marine Hospital was a government institution, originally intended for persons engaged in the navigation of the Mississippi river. It is a four story stone and brick edifice, surrounded by extensive and well shaded grounds, a garden in which the convalescent patients perform a part of the labor, and has every convenience of a model hospitals.

It was opened as a military hospital May the 4th, 1862, and then had accommodations for 150 patients. From that date till May 1st, 1864, it had received 1574 patients, and its per centage of death was 9. During the summer of 1863 its accommodations were enlarged for 100 more patients by the addition of wooden barracks, in which a new and excellent mode of ventilation was introduced by Mr. Leeds of Philadelphia, by means of stoves, drawing fresh air through an air chamber, under the floor, and passing it through the heating chamber of the stoves into the wards. There being also a ridge ventilation at the top of the barracks, and a ventilating shaft in each ward, with openings at the top and bottom of the rooms, no more perfect system of ventilation could possibly be devised, securing at the same time whatever temperature may be desired.

The officers are Assistant Surgeon James H. Peabody, U. S. V., in charge, L. H. Calloway, M. D., Acting Assistant Surgeon, and Rev. James A. Page, Chaplain.





U. S. GENERAL HOSPITAL. JEFFERSON BARRACKS. JNO. FRANKLIN BORG, U.S.A. in Charge.
MISSOURI

Engraved by J. C. Rogers, 1874

Jefferson Barracks was formerly a military post at which United States troops were stationed, situated about twelve miles below St. Louis, on the west bank of the Mississippi river. It consists of long rows of buildings, one and two stories high, with basement kitchens and dining-rooms, and wide piazzas, extending on three sides of a large plat of ground, in the form of a parallelogram, shaded with fine trees, the open end of the grounds being towards the river, with a high flag-staff on the bluff, from which the flag of the Union is always unfurled to the breeze. The old post hospital stands near on an adjoining eminence, and is two stories high, and the post chapel is situated several hundred yards back from the river, in a pleasantly shaded spot, retired from the barracks.

In April, 1862, these buildings, except the post chapel, which is still reserved for worship, were converted into a large hospital, for which purpose they were admirably suited, the rooms being large, having numerous windows on both sides, opposite each other, and the piazzas and shaded walks, affording excellent opportunities for exercise.

Beside the old buildings, the Government, during the summer of 1862, erected others on the ample grounds belonging to it, on the west side, so as to afford accommodations for two thousand five hundred patients. These new buildings are one story high, in triple rows six hundred feet long, divided into wards of three hundred feet each. There are three groups or sets of these new hospitals, some distance apart, the entire grounds in every direction being beautifully shaded by large oak trees. They are so arranged that each group has the central row appropriated to a dining-room, and surgeons', nurses' and stewards' quarters, the outside rows being for sick wards. Besides these improvements, a system of water works has been introduced, with reservoir and pipes, by which the water of the Mississippi is carried through all the buildings.

The institution is in charge of Surgeon J. F. Randolph, U. S. A., assisted by Dr. H. R. Tilton, U. S. A., and P. C. McLane, M. D.; A.

L. Allen, M. D.; T. F. Rumbold, M. D.; Hiram Latham, M. D.; S. Leslie, M. D., and J. J. Marston, M. D. The Post Chaplain, Rev. J. F. Fish, has been stationed here many years, and continues his services, in connection with Rev. S. Pettigrew, Hospital Chaplain.

The number of patients received and treated in this hospital in two years, ending April 30, 1864, is 11,434. The per centage of deaths the first year was eleven and a half, which was much increased by the large number brought to it in a dying condition. The per centage of deaths for the year just ended is nine and eight-tenths.

The Lawson Hospital is situated on the corner of Broadway and Carr streets, and was fitted up during the latter part of the fall of 1862. The edifice was originally intended for a hotel, is seven stories high, and is divided into eight wards, besides office rooms, nurses' quarters, linen room, kitchen, dining hall, and store rooms. It is well ventilated; an average number of seven hundred and fifty cubic feet is allowed to each bed; and it is provided with a steam engine and elevator, furnished by the Western Sanitary Commission, at an expense of two thousand five hundred dollars. The institution is in charge of Surgeon C. T. Alexander, U. S. A., assisted by W. H. Bradley, M. D.; L. H. Bottomley, M. D., and Wm. Fritz, M. D. Rev. Phillip McKim is Hospital Chaplain.

The hospital was opened January 17th, 1863, since which the whole number of patients received has been 3,021. For the first four months the per centage of deaths was very large, being twenty-five and nine-tenths, which was owing to the fact that during that period it received the wounded from the battles of Vicksburg and Arkansas Post, and the sick from Milliken's Bend and Helena, which were of the worst description, having many hopeless cases both of wounds and of chronic diarrhea, some of whom died as they were being brought into the hospital. The per centage of deaths for the last year, ending April 30th, 1864, has been much less, being 7 8-10.

The diminished per centage of deaths in the military hospitals during

the third year of the war, which the statistics of other hospitals will show, is evidence of a most gratifying improvement in the management of these institutions, and in the care and treatment of the sick and wounded soldier. This result has been influenced also by the sifting out from our armies, by death and discharges from the service, during the first two years of the war, all those who were not able to endure its hardships and exposures, those who remain being mainly veteran troops. No war has ever been conducted in which the per cent of deaths from disease has been so small, and the health and vigor of the troops so well maintained; nor one in which there has been so strong a current of sympathy and aid from the people at home towards the soldiers in the field, as in this war for the unity and national supremacy of the American Republic. Civilians, unable to bear arms, men of science and of letters, the orators and poets, and clergy of the land, and the noble and self-sacrificing women of our free commonwealths, have all vied with each other in their efforts to give help and sympathy to the soldier, and to inspire an interest in his welfare. With such an influence to encourage and cheer the armies of the Union, there is an explanation of the health, the spirit, and the unconquerable bravery of our troops, who, under their present tried and able commanders, are bearing the flag of freedom on to victory. May the spirit of liberty continue thus to animate all hearts, and welcome home our brave defenders when the last battle shall be fought, and our peace and prosperity be established on sure foundations.

CHAPTER VII.

GENERAL SHERMAN'S FIRST ATTACK ON VICKSBURG—WORKS ASSAULTED—SEVERE LOSSES TO THE UNION ARMS—HOSPITAL STEAMERS BRING THE WOUNDED TO MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS—BATTLE OF ARKANSAS POST—MORE WOUNDED BROUGHT TO ST. LOUIS—DELEGATION OF THE LADIES' UNION AID SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS—IOWA STATE AGENT—RENEWAL OF THE EXPEDITION AGAINST VICKSBURG BY GENERAL GRANT—INCREASED HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATIONS REQUIRED—VISIT OF MR. YEATMAN TO GEN. GRANT'S ARMY—HIS LETTER—BENTON BARRACKS HOSPITAL, ST. LOUIS—ADDITIONAL HOSPITALS AT MEMPHIS—THE FLOATING HOSPITAL, "CITY OF ALTON," THE "RUTH," AND "GLASGOW"—SECOND VISIT OF MR. YEATMAN TO GENERAL GRANT'S ARMY—HIS REPORT—SANITARY STORES SENT TO GEN. GRANT'S ARMY—FALL OF VICKSBURG—ITS UNTITLED HEROES.

IN the latter part of December, 1862, Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman embarked an army of twenty thousand troops on transports, at Memphis and Helena, and commenced an expedition against Vicksburg, under the direction of Maj. Gen. Grant, who was to co-operate by land, in a movement through Holly Springs to Jackson, taking Vicksburg in the rear. On the 26th of December, the main forces, under Gen. Sherman, disembarked successfully at Johnston's Landing, near the mouth of the Yazoo river, and prepared for an assault the next day on the northern works that defended the city. On the 27th, 28th, and 29th, several attempts were made to take the fortifications, but a stern and terrible resistance was made by the rebels, who outnumbered our forces, and who had the advantage of the strongest natural defenses and artificial earthworks known in modern warfare.

The result of the three days' fighting was a terrible loss in killed and wounded to the Union forces, and a temporary relinquishment of the undertaking. An unforeseen contingency, the capture of Holly Springs, in General Grant's rear, cutting off his communication and his supplies, had compelled his return to that point, and the aban-

donment of his part of the undertaking, which had enabled the rebels to concentrate their forces at Vicksburg, and accomplish Gen. Sherman's defeat. The wounded of his army were immediately forwarded to the Memphis and St. Louis hospitals by transports and hospital steamers. On their way they were met by a delegation of the Ladies' Union Aid Society, of St. Louis, hastening on the first boats with boxes of sanitary goods, to minister to their necessities.

The Western Commission put in charge of these ladies a large supply of stores, to be used by them or turned over to the surgeons, as they should be needed. The agent of the Commission, Mr. Plattenburg, also went down with Gen. Sherman's expedition from Helena, and was on hand with his sanitary stores immediately after the fighting.

The delegation of the St. Louis Ladies' Union Aid Society consisted of Mrs. Alfred Clapp, the President of the Society, Mrs. J. E. D. Couzins, Mrs. Washington King, Mrs. J. Crawshaw, Mrs. Wm. Clark, and Miss Breckinridge. Besides these there was also a delegation from the Chicago Branch of the U. S. Commission of Mrs. M. A. Livermore and Mrs. Hoge of Chicago, and Mrs. Henrietta J. Colt of Milwaukee; and there was likewise Mrs. Annie Wittenmier, the State agent of the Iowa Sanitary Commission, who had in charge a large supply of sanitary goods from that State. All these noble women were indefatigable in their efforts to relieve and comfort the sick and wounded, and to minister to them.

The disastrous attack on Vicksburg, which ended the year '62, was followed up, almost immediately by another expedition, with the same army, under Gen. J. A. McClernand, assisted by the navy, against Arkansas Post, on the Arkansas river, which was taken, after another severe battle on the 11th of January, '63, with eight thousand prisoners, and a large number of cannon, ordnance stores and small arms, the gunboats "Louisville," "DeKalb," "Cincinnati," and "Lexington," under Admiral Porter, co-operating with the land forces.

The fortifications at Arkansas Post were destroyed, and the expe-

dition then returned up the river to Helena and Memphis, bringing along several hundred wounded on transports, who suffered many privations, the surgeons being poorly provided with the means of making them comfortable. The boats were much crowded, the weather was cold, draughts of air were blowing through the cabins, the sick and wounded men had to lie on the floors, and there were not nurses enough to take care of them.

On reaching Helena a portion of the St. Louis delegation of the Ladies' Union Aid Society, who had just returned from Vicksburg, went on board these transports, took such sanitary stores with them as were needed, and remained on them till they reached St. Louis, bestowing the tenderest care and nursing upon those poor suffering and wounded men.

The severity of these wounds, the unavoidable exposure in winter, the long passage to St. Louis, both of those from Vicksburg, as well as of those from Arkansas Post, resulted in the loss of many of these brave men, and a great percentage of deaths followed in the Lawson Hospital at St. Louis, where most of them were taken, as well as of the very sick, from Helena, being 25 9-10th per cent of all who were admitted during that winter, till the first of the next June.

It was at this time, while there were so many sick in the camps and hospitals of the army in Tennessee and Arkansas, during the worst winter known for many years, and when so many wounded were thrown upon our care, that additional hospitals were opened at St. Louis and Memphis, and additional hospital steamers fitted up to ply to and fro on the Mississippi river, between the army and the well-furnished and well-managed hospitals farther north.

This was done also in view of the renewal of operations against Vicksburg. On the failure of Gen. Grant's movement through Mississippi, to take Jackson, and attack Vicksburg in the rear, while Gen. Sherman attacked the city on the north side, he returned to, Holly Springs, punished the recreant commander, Col. R. C. Murphy

who had surrendered that post without any proper effort to defend it, by dismissal from the service, and thence proceeded with his army to Memphis, where he embarked his forces on transports for Young's Point and Milliken's Bend, La. Here he landed his troops on the 29th of January. It does not come within the legitimate object of this work to give even a sketch of military operations, beyond what is necessary to show how the Sanitary Commission followed the army and navy, and improved its opportunities of usefulness.

During February and March, while the army of Gen. Grant was occupying the low region of country above Vicksburg, on the Louisiana shore, trying to change the bed of the river, by cutting a canal across the large bend, opposite the city; while gunboats and transports, with troops, were sent to explore the bayous leading to the Yazoo and Red rivers; and while an expedition was sent to open the Yazoo Pass, to effect a passage through the Cold Water and Tallahatchie rivers to the Yazoo, by which to destroy rebel vessels in that river, capture Yazoo City, and take Vicksburg in the rear, the Mississippi was overflowing the low lands in every direction, the camping grounds of many of the regiments were flooded, the rains were incessant, and, as a necessary consequence, there was a large amount of sickness in the army. Exaggerated reports were circulated by letter writers through the Northern press, and much anxiety and uneasiness were felt in regard to the health of the troops.

At this time Mr. Yeatman, the President of the Western Commission, went down to make a personal inspection, and on his return, on the 13th of March, published a letter, giving an account of his visit, and of the actual state of things. In this letter he says:

“For a short time after the landing of the army at and near Young's Point, consequent upon long confinement upon transports, there was much sickness; but the health of the troops improved rapidly, and the per centage of sickness is below what I have generally found it in camps in other portions of the country which I have visited. Besides

many others, I visited every regiment in Sherman's corps, which was reported in the worst condition. While in some of the new regiments the amount of sickness was large, in others it was unusually small. The great danger to be apprehended was from want of vegetable diet, symptoms of scurvy having already made their appearance."

Mr. Yeatman recommended that the friends of the soldiers should send large quantities of vegetables, fruits, and pickles, and the Commission at once sent a large supply, and directed its agent, Mr. Plattenburg, to proceed immediately and establish his headquarters with the army near Vicksburg.

Mr. Yeatman remarked, with great satisfaction, the interest taken by Generals Sherman and Grant in the health of their troops. He says of the former: "I saw Gen. Sherman going through the camps on foot, giving particular directions in regard to sanitary regulations. No one could look after his men more carefully than he does. While he maintains a strict discipline, he mingles with and goes among his men to ascertain personally their wants. He has a kind word for all, and is greeted, by his men, as one who cares for, and thinks of their comfort. With the sick he is as delicate and tender as a woman. I am thus particular in mentioning General Sherman's corps, as my attention was particularly directed to it, owing to reports which had been made to me."

After describing the ample arrangements made for the care of the sick and wounded, he remarked still further: "Gen. Grant is determined to have provision made for the sick equal to any contingency that may arise, and before long will quarter his army on high ground, on the opposite side of the river. Assistant Surgeon General Wood is accomplishing, and will accomplish, all that is possible to be done."

While these arrangements were being carried out near the scene of conflict, the Assistant Surgeon General was making extensive preparations, at St. Louis and Memphis, to be well provided against future emergencies. Under his directions, the large amphitheatre building

in the old fair grounds at Benton Barracks, a few miles northwest from St. Louis, and north of the St. Charles road, was taken possession of by the Government for hospital purposes. It was enclosed, provided with windows, floored, partitioned, divided into wards, thoroughly whitewashed, furnished with iron bedsteads and good beds, and converted into one of the largest, most thoroughly ventilated and best hospitals in the United States, capable of accommodating two thousand five hundred patients. Numerous other buildings, near the main edifice, on the same grounds, formerly used by the Agricultural Society for its exhibitions, were used for officers' quarters, medical dispensary, commissary rooms, special diet kitchens, &c., and the fine walks and splendid shade added much to the beauty and attractiveness of the place.

The institution was at first placed in charge of Surgeon Ira Russell, U. S. V., under whose administration it was conducted with entire success. It was opened March 1st, 1863, and during the following three months received two thousand and forty-two patients. For that period the per centage of deaths was only four and a half of the whole number. From June 1st, 1863, to May 1st, 1864, there were four thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight patients received, and the per centage of deaths was seven and one-tenth.

In this hospital there was appointed an excellent corps of female nurses, who were placed under the immediate oversight and direction of a supervisor of nurses, acting under the surgeon in charge, which position was ably and successfully filled by Miss Emily Parsons, of Cambridge, Mass. The good order, attention to duty, and faithfulness of the nurses, in the several wards, were greatly promoted by this system. Fortunately for the experiment it had the hearty approval of the surgeon in charge; and it is due to him, as well as the supervisor of nurses, to say that probably, in no hospital in the United States, was the nursing of the sick and wounded brought to greater perfection than here.

Auxiliary to this system the Ladies' Union Aid Society also established a special diet kitchen, in one of the buildings in the amphitheatre, which is wholly conducted by members of that society, provided with delicacies for the sick, wines, stimulants, &c., to which the Western Sanitary Commission also contributes, and from this kitchen any delicate food needed for the very sick can always be ordered, by the surgeons, and be immediately prepared.

For a few months of the autumn of '63, Surgeon Russell was relieved by Surgeon J. H. Grove, U. S. V., who conducted the institution on the same principles, and under whom it maintained the same high character.

In the winter of 1863-4 Benton Barracks became a recruiting station for colored troops ; hospital accommodations were needed for the sick of the colored regiments ; several of the wards were appropriated for their use ; and Dr. Grove, having been assigned to another position of responsibility and trust, Dr. Russell was again placed in charge. Under his management the institution still maintains its original character ; the female nurses act under Miss Parsons, as supervisor ; the special diet kitchen is still maintained, in charge of Mrs. Shepard Wells, of the Ladies' Union Aid Society ; and the sick soldiers, whether of the white troops or of the regiments of African descent, each occupying separate wards, are treated with the care and kind attention due to the soldiers of the Union.

Besides the general hospital, there is also a post hospital at Benton Barracks, likewise in charge of Surgeon Russell. During the fall of 1863, and winter of '64, many of the sick of the new colored regiments were treated here. The whole number of patients received was 6140, and the per centage of deaths 8 2-10. Female nurses are provided for this hospital by the Western Sanitary Commission, the Government only allowing them to the general hospitals.

At Memphis, by direction of Assistant Surgeon General Wood, several additional hospitals were fitted up there in the winter and

spring of 1863. They were generally the largest and best buildings in the city, having been originally designed for hotels, or blocks of stores, four and five stories high. These hospitals were named the Overton, Washington, Gayoso, Jackson, Jefferson, Marine, Webster, Union, Gangrene, and Officers', and were capable of accommodating about 5000 sick and wounded men. During the summer of '63, while Gen. Grant's army was operating against Vicksburg, and after the fall of that city, these hospitals were filled, and there was a constant demand for sanitary stores. Maj. T. P. Robb, of Illinois, acted as a Sanitary agent for that State, and also for the Western Sanitary Commission, and distributed largely both to the regiments encamped at Memphis, and to the hospitals.

Many commissioned officers having been wounded at the battles of Vicksburg, were also without their pay, and were not allowed by regulations the ordinary accommodations of enlisted men. Their condition being made known to the Commission, it furnished a complete outfit of every thing necessary for a hospital of one hundred beds, called the Officers' hospital.

The United States Sanitary Commission also maintained a well-supplied agency at Memphis, in charge of Dr. H. A. Warriner, an able and efficient officer, who had a general supervision of the work of that Commission, on the Mississippi river, and often acted in friendly co-operation with the agents of the Western Commission.

During the same winter and spring the large and splendid steamer "*City of Allon*," was used as a floating hospital, being fitted up for this purpose; and the steamer "*Ruth*," of equal dimensions and magnificence, (since destroyed), the steamer "*Glasgow*," and a number of smaller boats were likewise used as transports for conveying the sick and wounded from the Lower Mississippi to the hospitals at Memphis and St. Louis. Besides these, the large and commodious floating hospital "*Nashville*," was fitted up so as to accommodate one thousand patients, and located permanently near Milliken's Bend, in charge of

Surgeon L. D. Strawbridge, U. S. A.; and the hospital steamers "*City of Memphis*," and "*D. A. January*," capable of accommodating twelve hundred more, were under the order of the Medical Director, either for transportation to hospitals, or for the care of the sick and wounded for any length of time that might be needed there. The Medical Purveyor also had a boat set apart exclusively for medical supplies of all kinds, with cots and bedding sufficient to extemporize several other floating hospitals, in case of necessity. Two large boats were likewise turned over to the United States and Western Sanitary Commissions, whose agents were constantly receiving and distributing supplies. No army was ever better provided for than the army of Gen. Grant at this period, and to these efforts to keep up the health and vigor of the troops was due much of that courage and endurance which resulted in the splendid victories that crowned our arms, in the series of great battles fought at Fort Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hills, the Big Black river, and before the entrenchments of Vicksburg, to the fall of that city.

When at last this Gibraltar of the enemy fell into our possession, with thirty thousand prisoners of war, there were many sick and wounded men in the camps and hospitals around the city. These had still to be cared for and brought up the river, away from the heats of summer in that Southern latitude.

At the time of Gen. Grant's investment of Vicksburg, and the two unsuccessful assaults made on the rebel works on the 19th and the 22d of May, there were four thousand five hundred of our brave troops wounded. The President of the Western Sanitary Commission made a second visit at that time in charge of the steamer "*Champion*," loaded with commissary and sanitary stores. A large portion of the sanitary goods, and many tons of ice, having been furnished by the merchants of St. Louis, Mr. Yeatman, on his return, published a report of his visit, in which he says:

"On the evening of the 26th of May I left here on the steamer

"*Champion*," accompanied by a corps of surgeons, nurses and dressers of wounds, numbering fifty-five in all, *with some two hundred and fifty tons of sanitary supplies*, besides cots, mattresses, and every thing necessary for taking care of a thousand wounded men, in case of necessity, the latter articles having been furnished by order of the Assistant Surgeon General R. C. Wood.

"We did not arrive at Chickasaw Bluffs, near Vicksburg, until the evening of the 31st of May, where we found that the number of the wounded had been greatly exaggerated, the actual number not exceeding four thousand five hundred. The arrangements of the Medical Department were most excellent, and the transportation of the sick and wounded, on the hospital steamer, "*D. A. January*," in charge of Surgeon A. H. Huff, were most perfect. I found that the greater part of the wounded, who required attention, and who could be removed, had been attended to. Of those who had been thus cared for there were about 1,900; and about 2,000 more, who were but slightly wounded, were treated in division hospitals, together with a few hundred who were too severely wounded to be moved. The division hospitals were being consolidated with the army corps hospitals, which were to be placed in shady, sequestered spots, where an abundance of pure, fresh water could be had.

"The wounded being so well provided for it was not necessary that our steamer should be used for hospital purposes; the hospital beds, bedding, and supplies were turned over to the proper medical officers, and the dressers of wounds and nurses were placed where they could be most useful, some of them in hospitals and others on hospital steamers. By the time we arrived at Vicksburg all sanitary stores had become completely exhausted, and the new supplies, in my charge, were greatly needed. They were at once placed in the hands of our Agent, Mr. A. W. Plattenburg, by whom they were distributed, most liberally, whenever they were most wanted. Blessings were invoked, by both Surgeons and men,

for this timely care in providing for them, in the great extremity which always succeeds a series of battles, and which can only be fully provided for in this way. No parched and thirsty soil ever drank the dews of heaven, with more avidity, than did those wounded men receive the beneficent gifts and comforts, sent to them through this Commission."

The number of articles sent to Gen. Grant's army from the Western Commission during the month of June, preceding the fall of Vicksburg, was 114,697, consisting of 3,090 hospital shirts, 3,080 hospital drawers, 1,260 sheets, 4,400 bandages, 2,412 bottles of Catawba wine, 1,337 cans of fresh fruit, 1,976 cans of condensed milk, 10,000 lemons, 1,600 gallons of lager beer, 5,477 lbs. dried apples, 2,400 lbs. dried peaches, 2,088 lbs. codfish, 1,850 lbs. herring, 11,710 lbs. crackers, 23,060 lbs. ice, 1,800 chickens, 3,171 dozen eggs, 3,068 lbs. butter, 1,840 lbs. corn meal, 3,145 bushels potatoes, 2,500 fans, 6,004 books and pamphlets, and of the following articles in similar proportions : Blankets, pillows, socks, slippers, handkerchiefs, towels, lbs. of rags, lbs. of lint, eye shades, oil silk pads, pin cushions, rolls of adhesive plaster, tourniquets, crutches, back rests, close stools, spit cups, sponges, splints, air beds, bottles of whisky, bottles of brandy, bottles of Catawba bitters, bottles of ginger wine, bottles of cassia syrup, bottles of blackberry syrup, lbs. of farina, lbs. of corn starch, lbs. of oat meal, lbs. of arrowroot, lbs. of tapioca, lbs. of sago, lbs. of pinola, lbs. of flaxseed, lbs. of cassia, lbs. of allspice, lbs. of mustard, lbs. of nutmegs, lbs. of pepper, bottles of pepper sauce, bottles of horseradish, bottles of tomato catsup, bottles of cranberry sauce, bottles of flavoring extracts, cans of clams and oysters, cans of spiced tripe, cans of jelly, cans of condensed soup, cans of cocoa paste, lbs. of chocolate, cans of portable lemonade, gallons of ale, bottles of drugs, bottles of extract of ginger, lbs. of dried small fruit, lbs. of dried beef, lbs. of extract of beef, lbs. of mackerel, lbs. of cheese, lbs. of bread, lbs. of zwieback, lbs. of coffee, lbs. of tea, lbs. of sugar, lbs.

of sour krout, gallons of pickles, gallons of vinegar, bottles of fine pickles, lbs. of carbonate of soda, lbs. of saleratus, lbs. of citric acid, lbs. of castile soap, Cook's Manual, stationery, faucets, combs and brushes, lbs. of hops, lbs. of tobacco, bread trays, water coolers, scales, cooking stoves, brooms, tin cups, tin basins, tin plates, tin boilers, tin buckets, tin dippers, tin skimmers, coffee pots, tea pots, spoons, stew pans, cork screws, knives and forks, and iron boilers.

Fortunate was it for these brave men that so much preparation and provision had been made for their comfort, and that loving hearts and kind hands had labored for them at home, sending contributions and agents, and volunteer surgeons and nurses, after them, wherever the fortunes of war had led them, to assist in binding up their wounds, in nursing them when sick, and in making them whole. On the fall of Vicksburg, on the following 4th of July, none rejoiced more than these untitled heroes, in the celebration of that day, by so great a victory, and none were more worthy to claim their share of its honors, and to partake in the glory of this, the greatest achievement of the war.

CHAPTER VIII.

SOLDIERS' HOMES AT COLUMBUS, KY., MEMPHIS, VICKSBURG, AND HELENA—OVER 150,000 SOLDIER GUESTS ENTERTAINED—FURTHER ACCOUNT OF THE ST. LOUIS HOSPITALS—WHOLE NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED—NUMBER OF DEATHS—PER CENTAGE OF DEATHS—THE MILITARY PRISONS AT ST. LOUIS AND ALTON, ILL.—HUMANE TREATMENT OF SICK PRISONERS.

ON Mr. Yeatman's first visit to the army of Gen. Grant, in the winter of '63, he became satisfied of the necessity of Soldiers' Homes at Memphis, Tenn., and Columbus, Ky., where there were many troops stationed, and many others constantly arriving, either going home discharged, or on furlough to visit their friends, or returning to their regiments, being frequently without means to pay hotel expenses, and needing a place of refreshment and rest. The change of transportation from the river to the railroads, leading to Jackson and Corinth, made this the more necessary.

On the 13th of February, '63, the Soldiers' Home at Memphis was opened for the reception of guests. According to previous arrangement made by the President of the Western Sanitary Commission with Gen. T. C. Hamilton, then in command of the 16th army corps, the large residence on Beal street, known as the "Hunt Mansion," was turned over to Mr. O. E. Waters, as agent of the Commission, for this purpose.

It had formerly been the head-quarters of Maj. Gen. Grant, and more recently of Gen. Hamilton, and was the property of a Mr. Wm. Richardson Hunt, a very wealthy planter, owning a great number of slaves, and now a colonel in the rebel army, many of his slaves still residing in Memphis and providing for themselves. He spent over forty thousand dollars in building and beautifying this mansion

with its elegant grounds, little dreaming that in doing this he was preparing so comfortable a home for the soldiers of the Union, and the defenders of the flag he himself dishonored by his infidelity and treason. When the city of Memphis was captured by the United States navy he was among the first to flee, with his fellow traitors, and abandon his home and country for an uncertain abode at Atlanta, Georgia.

When the Home was made ready for guests a card was published inviting the weary soldier to come and partake of its hospitalities, and it was not long till the place was much sought for, and groups of soldiers, dusty and travel-worn, could be seen occupying its piazzas and pleasant rooms, or sitting beneath its evergreen arbors and magnolia shades.

The Superintendent, in his annual report, gives the following account of the opening of the institution:

“Our first guests were brought in by Mrs. Governor Harvey. She found them wandering through the streets, sadly in need of a kind friend to give them assistance and care. One of them, a little drummer boy of the 29th Wisconsin Infantry, when brought in and laid upon a soft mattress, exclaimed, with tears in his eyes, ‘Oh, how pleasant this is!’ Brave little drummer boy! his spirit found a brighter home and a softer couch ere the morrow’s sun arose.

“During the first three months we were confined exclusively to the care of discharged and invalid soldiers, very often having from twenty to thirty helpless men at a time, when papers must be examined, pay collected and comfortable transportation secured, on some steamer going North. Many of these men I found lying upon the hard pavements in the streets, and on the bluff, near the steamboat landing, in a helpless condition, with no friend to assist them. Three-fourths of them were delayed here, from one to eight weeks, on account of imperfect papers. If the officers in our army, having this duty to perform, only knew of the suffering and anguish caused by their carelessness, they would

certainly look well to the careful and correct execution of the soldier's discharge papers and final statements. Many a weak, war-worn soldier, with his steps turned toward his Northern home, full of bright anticipations and cheering hopes that he will soon be mingling with the loved ones there, when told that his papers are defective, and rejected by the paymaster, and that they will have to be returned to his regiment for correction, has felt his heart sink within him, and the radiant smile has passed away from his face, in the bitterness of his disappointment. In some instances, before their papers have returned, they have waited, unable to go home, sinking in health, until their final discharge came from the court of Heaven, and, without seeing their loved ones on earth again, they went up to their heavenly home, and their eternal reward.

"Since the Home was established, thirteen deaths have occurred within its walls. This number is small, comparatively, with the number of very sick men we have entertained.

"After the first of May, '63, soldiers of all classes were admitted to the Home, and our numbers began to increase rapidly. The least number entertained in a single day was six, and the greatest number three hundred and fifty. After the siege of Vicksburg was over, and our army sent to other scenes of action, the number of *sick* materially decreased, and our attention was directed more to the care of well men, providing food, transportation, etc."

Of this class of guests the number has steadily increased, and the usefulness of the Home was never greater than at the present time. From its establishment, February 18th, 1863, to May 1st, 1864, the whole number of guests entertained has been 25,830, the number of meals furnished 55,894, and the number of lodgings provided 18,986. Of these guests the record shows them to have been largely Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Indiana troops, with considerable numbers from Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, and other States. The soldiers from Illinois stopping at this Home, to the 1st of March, were 3018;

from Missouri, 1,524; from Iowa, 1,289; the remainder from other States.

Besides the regular guests entertained here, often the wife, mother, sister, or father of the sick soldier, accompanying him home, and having limited resources, have been received as guests, and members of the United States Christian Commission, engaged in the work of ministering to the army, have also been welcomed to its hospitality, and their religious services in the house have given it a religious and moral character that was highly beneficial to its inmates.

From the opening of this Home, to the present date, it has been under the superintendence of Mr. O. E. Waters, whose services have been constant, faithful, and satisfactory, in the highest degree. For several months he was assisted by Miss A. L. Ostram, as matron, who resigned her position to fill a similar one at Cairo, Illinois. She was succeeded by Mrs. Lucy E. Starr, who has occupied the position for nearly a year, and has imparted so cheerful a spirit to the Home, and been so unremitting in her labors that her praise is every where spoken by those who have been the guests of the institution.

On the 16th of February, '63, the Soldiers' Home at Columbus, Ky., was opened, and has entertained many thousand soldier guests. It was at first superintended by Mr. Brown, and for a short time by Mr. Geo. E. Wyeth, when Chaplain Ephraim Nute, became superintendent in the spring of '63, and continued in charge till September of the same year, when he went to New Orleans to establish another Home for the Commission in that city.* He was succeeded at Columbus by Mr. S. J. Orange, the present excellent and faithful superintendent. The first matron was Mrs. S. A. Plummer, who was assisted by Miss Ida

*The Soldiers' Home at New Orleans was duly established in October, 1862, by Mr. Nute, acting as the agent of the Western Sanitary Commission, under a special order from Maj. Gen. Grant. He was provided with furniture, stores, and funds for this purpose, to the value of several thousand dollars, and the Home, on its first opening, was crowded with guests. Late in November it was transferred to the U. S. Commission, under whose auspices it is still continued. Rev. Mr. Nute, from the date of this transfer, ceased to be the agent of the Western Commission, and soon after returned to his regiment.

Johnson, and to both these ladies great praise is due, for their devotion to the interests of the Home, and their kind and faithful service to the soldiers, who were their guests. In August, '63, Mrs. Plummer was transferred to the Soldiers' Home, at Vicksburg, where she has continued as matron to the present date. She was succeeded at Columbus by Mrs. Orange, who has performed the duties of matron with the utmost satisfaction. Many letters have been received from soldiers who have been the guests of this home, testifying their appreciation of the services of Mr. and Mrs. Orange, and their gratitude for the kind hospitalities received.

The whole number of guests entertained at the Columbus Home from February 16th, 1863, to May 1st, 1864, has been 52,259, the number of meals furnished, 96,694, and the number of lodgings provided, 20,315. The number of troops from Illinois, among the above guests, for the year ending February 16th, 1864, was 2,243; from Iowa, 888; from Wisconsin, 1,211; from Missouri, 864; the remainder being from the other Western States.

The Soldiers' Home, at Vicksburg, was opened August 6th 1863, with Mr. R. K. Foster for Superintendent, and Mrs. S. A. Plummer for Matron. On the taking of this city, it became the base of movements into the interior, and with its garrison and the moving of troops, and the changing of transportation from the river to the land it was foreseen that a Soldiers' Home would be necessary here. A large and good building was obtained from the Government for the purpose, furniture and supplies were sent forward from St. Louis, sufficient for two hundred guests, and from the opening of the institution to the present date, it has been crowded to its utmost capacity.

Mr. Foster continued in charge till the 28th of November, when he was succeeded by Mr. N. M. Mann, the present competent and excellent superintendent. Mr. Foster continued to act as Sanitary agent for the Commission, at Vicksburg, from the transfer of Mr.

Plattensburg to the 15th army corps, till in January, 1864, when he was transferred to Helena, Ark., to open a Home at that place.

Mrs. Plummer has continued to act as matron of the Vicksburg Home from the beginning, and devoted herself to its duties with her usual zeal and interest in the welfare of the soldiers. She has been ably assisted in her labors by Miss Hattie Wiswall, assistant matron, another of the excellent and devoted women, who have been untiring in their services to our brave defenders in arms, from the beginning of the war. For many months this Home has also enjoyed the voluntary labors of Mrs. Governor Harvey, of Wisconsin, who, finding it crowded with guests, has lent a helping hand in its management, besides giving much of her time and energy to the interests of the poor freedmen and their families, and to the destitute Union refugees. Mr. Mann has also labored most efficiently for these people, of which an account will be given in a chapter devoted to that subject.

The number of soldiers entertained at the Vicksburg Home, from August 6th, 1863, to May 1st, 1864, has been 49,738; the number of meals furnished 81,144, and the number of lodgings provided 30,882. Of the guests for six months, 3,866 have been from Illinois regiments; 1,919 from Iowa regiments; 829 from Wisconsin regiments; 451 from Missouri regiments; the rest being from other States.

There have also been entertained at this Home quite a number of persons, laboring as agents and teachers to the freedmen, and members of the Christian Commission, who, being engaged in a similar work of benevolence and Christianity, and the city being without sufficient hotel accommodations, have been welcomed, from time to time, to its hospitalities.

On February 11th, 1864, another Soldiers' Home was opened at Helena, Ark. Having a large army in Arkansas, and many troops passing through Helena, on their way to and from their regiments, it was deemed advisable, with the concurrence of Brig. Gen. N. B. Buford, commanding that post, to establish a Home there. In this

work Gen. Buford and his excellent lady afforded much aid, and one of the churches of the place having been assigned for the purpose, with new buildings erected for office room, kitchen, and dining hall, the institution was soon comfortably fitted up with bedsteads, beds, bedding, kitchen furniture, stores, etc., sent from the Western Commission, and was immediately filled with guests. For a brief period Mr. R. K. Foster acted as superintendent, when he returned to St. Louis, and Rev. John I. Herrick, chaplain of the 29th Wisconsin infantry, being on detached service at Helena, was detailed by Gen. Buford, at the request of the Commission, to act as superintendent, and continues in charge at this date. Mrs. H. A. Haines, an experienced and capable person, was sent down to be matron, and has filled the position thus far very successfully, and with entire satisfaction to the Commission. During the three months the Home has been established, it has entertained 3527 guests, furnished 8062 meals, and and provided 3162 lodgings.

Summing up the statistics of all these Homes, including the one at St. Louis, it will be found that there have been entertained in them 152,200 soldier guests, 327,786 meals furnished, and 96,635 lodgings provided, and that of this number there have been 14,703 guests from Illinois regiments, 7,359 from Missouri regiments, and 8,711 from Iowa regiments, up to March 1st, 1864, the remainder being divided among soldiers from Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and the U. S. regulars.

Besides the hospitals of St. Louis, of which a previous account has been given, there are two Post hospitals, one on Hickory street, and the other at Benton Barracks, the Gratiot Prison hospital, and the Small-pox hospital on Duncan's Island. The first of these was originally a General hospital, and there was formerly a Post hospital at Schofield Barracks, in the immediate vicinity, on Chouteau Avenue, which was consolidated with it November 1st, 1863. The whole

number of patients received at Hickory street, to that date, was 1826, and the per centage of deaths was 6 1-10, and at Schofield Barracks the number of patients received was 206, and the per centage of deaths 4 3-10. At the Military Prison hospital, in McDowell's College, Gratiot street, the number of patients received to May 1st, '64, is 3,514, and the per centage of deaths 11 4-10. The surgeon in charge is B. B. Breed, U. S. V. The number of patients received at the Small-pox hospital to June 1st, '63, was 871, and the per centage of deaths 22 9-10. The number of prisoners received at the same institution, for the same period, was 162, and the per centage of deaths 34 1-2. The great mortality of prisoners in this hospital, and at McDowell's College, Gratiot street, was owing largely to the neglected and exhausted condition in which they fell into our hands. No statistics have been received from this institution, for this work, although requested of the surgeon in charge.

The number of patients treated at the Post hospital on Hickory street, from November 1st, 1863, to May 1st, 1864, is 1,412, and the per centage of deaths 2 9-10. The institution is in charge of Frank W. White, M. D., A. A. Surgeon, U. S. A.

The Good Samaritan, the Fifth street, the Elliott, and the New House of Refuge hospitals, having been discontinued, the statistics of them may be found in the second Annual Report of the Commission, June 1st, 1863.

The whole number of patients treated in the hospitals of St. Louis, including those at Jefferson and Benton Barracks, up to May 1st, '64, is 61,744, the number that have died is 5,684, and the per centage of deaths 9 1-10.

The military prisons of St. Louis have, from the beginning of the war, received the constant attention of the Western Sanitary Commission, and sanitary stores have been issued to them in all cases of urgent need, upon the requisitions of the surgeon in charge.

In November, 1862, the hospital of Gratiot Street Prison, in McDowell's College, used exclusively for prisoners of war, was found to be much crowded, and the building also needed a thorough renovation and cleansing. The facts were reported to Maj. Gen. Curtis, then commanding the department, and the crowded condition both of the prison and the hospital, was obviated by sending a considerable number to the large military prison at Alton, Illinois. The Commission then had the whole interior of the prison and hospital thoroughly cleansed and whitewashed, by wards, and the condition of things was much improved. Assistant Surgeon General Wood also assigned two surgeons to the prison, and made its hospital entirely separate, with its own arrangements complete.

The Commission made an effort at the same time to induce the government to rent other and larger buildings for a military hospital, but the necessity having in a measure ceased, with a removal of a part of the patients to Alton, it was not successful.

The Myrtle Street Prison, in which military offences by United States troops are punished, was also thoroughly inspected at the same time, and measures of improvement were carried into effect.

The Commission has extended its inspections to the military prison at Alton, Illinois, and furnished supplies, to most urgent cases of need, on the requisition of the surgeon in charge. This prison is the same formerly occupied as the Illinois State Penitentiary, which was removed to Joliet, just before the breaking out of the war. It has a large area of ground, 420 by 323 feet, enclosed by a high stone wall, with the prison buildings inside, is in a healthy location, within a few rods of the Mississippi river, on the east side, has good water, excellent drainage, a free circulation of pure air, and could not be better adapted to the purposes for which it is used.

A committee from the Western Sanitary Commission visited it in December, 1862, and in a published report of the visit, said, "We

found the hospital to be a good, brick structure, 104 by 35 feet, well ventilated, but insufficiently warmed. It contains sixty-three patients. Many of the sick were needing proper under-clothing. Most of the buildings in the enclosure stand isolated, with considerable ground between them, so that in a moral and sanitary point of view, they are very favorably situated. The prisoners are furnished abundantly with good wholesome food, and they appear to be entirely satisfied with the kind treatment of officers and attendants. The clothes of the prisoners are washed outside the walls, by laundresses, paid out of the prison funds. There is also a washing apparatus on the ground, with a plentiful supply of hot water, and soap, which is freely resorted to by the inmates."

There were then 700 prisoners confined in this prison, with accommodations for 1,300. Since then, it has frequently contained over one thousand. During a recent visit of the Secretary of the Commission, he found the hospital in an excellent condition, in charge of Surgeon T. A. Worrell, U.S.V., Dr. Hez. Williams, A. A. Surgeon, with beds for three hundred patients; the floors clean, and the arrangements similar to the military hospitals for our own troops. There were 120 sick prisoners out of 1000, then in prison. The four female nurses in attendance were Sisters of Charity. A chaplain is also allowed the prison, Rev. Father Vehay, of the Catholic church. A supply of sanitary stores has been recently sent to the Surgeon in charge, on his requisition. The small-pox patients are treated in tents, on the island, just opposite Alton. There were recently but few cases of this disease.

Those who die in this prison, are buried in a ground about two miles out of the city, set apart especially for that purpose. They are furnished with a coffin, the same as the Union soldier, and are in all respects decently interred. Head boards, with the initials of their names are placed at each grave, so that there can be no difficulty identifying the spot.

The statistics of the prison and hospital were recently requested, for the purpose of giving a more complete statement for this work, but were refused by Brig. Gen. Copeland, commanding the post. It is believed that the facts would show that this prison and its hospital have been conducted in a manner creditable to the humanity of the United States Government, and would convey, by contrast, a terrible rebuke to the inhumanity with which our soldiers have been starved and treated in the prisons of the South.

CHAPTER IX.

SANITARY STORES SENT TO THE ARMY OF GEN. DAVIDSON, AT BLOOMFIELD, MO.—PART OF THEM CAPTURED BY GUERRILLAS—NARROW ESCAPE OF THE AGENT—STORES SENT TO THE ARMY OF GEN. STEELE, AT DUVALL'S BLUFF AND LITTLE ROCK—AGENCY ESTABLISHED AT LITTLE ROCK—ACKNOWLEDGMENTS—STORES SENT TO FORT BLUNT, CHEROKEE NATION—ACKNOWLEDGMENT—STORES SENT TO COLORED TROOPS AT MILLIKEN'S BEND, GOODRICH'S LANDING, AND VICKSBURG—LETTERS OF REV. DR. ELIOT AND MR. YEATMAN—BOOKS AND INSTRUCTION FURNISHED TO COLORED TROOPS AT BENTON BARRACKS—LETTER FROM COL. A. WATSON WEBBER—STORES SENT TO NASHVILLE AND MURFREESBORO, TENN.—AGENCY AT HUNTSVILLE, ALA.—STORES SENT TO THE NAVAL FLOTILLA—VETERAN REGIMENTS ENTERTAINED AT ST. LOUIS—STORES TO THE 33D ILLINOIS INFANTRY—ACKNOWLEDGMENT—STORES TO BANKS' ARMY ON RED RIVER—SEVERAL IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ANSWERED—DO THE SOLDIERS GET ANY OF THE SANITARY STORES?—ILLUSTRATIONS—ACCOUNTABILITY OF AGENTS—HOSPITALS, REGIMENTS, HOSPITAL STEAMERS AND GUNBOATS SUPPLIED WITH SANITARY STORES—LIST OF FEMALE NURSES WHO HAVE PROVED THEIR WORTH IN THE HOSPITALS OF SAINT LOUIS.

DURING the month of August, 1863, Brig. Gen. Davidson, commanding a force of cavalry, was stationed at Bloomfield, Mo., preparatory to a movement on Little Rock. His sick were to be left at that place, in hospital, and, in accordance with his request, the Commission sent an agent there, Mr. H. J. Waterman, with a large supply of sanitary stores. On the way from Cape Girardeau to Bloomfield, with a commissary train, in which six of the wagons were loaded with the stores of the Commission, the train was attacked, while encamped at night, by a band of guerrillas of the enemy, twelve soldiers and teamsters were killed, the mules were carried off, and the wagons, commissary stores, and sanitary goods set fire to and burned, with the exception of two wagons, which happened to contain sanitary stores. The guerrillas then made their escape, and Mr. Waterman, with the captain of the train, who had narrowly escaped, proceeded on the next day to Bloomfield, in a very crippled condition. On arriving there, what was left of the sanitary stores were distributed to the sick, in hospital,

where they were much needed, and most thankfully received, and Mr. Waterman returned to Cape Girardeau, where he had left about half of his original supply, being unable to procure transportation.

Previous to his reaching Bloomfield, Gen. Davidson had moved on, towards Little Rock, with his available forces, and as it was now known that Maj. Gen. Steele was about to move from Helena, with a large force, to the same point, it was deemed advisable, by the Commission, that a permanent agent should accompany this expedition. Mr. Waterman was accordingly ordered to proceed, from Cape Girardeau, with his stores, to Helena, by the river, and there join the command of Gen. Steele. On his arrival at Helena, the expedition had moved as far as Clarendon, on White river, and the weather being warm, it was reported that already there were many sick at that point. Mr. Waterman, with difficulty, procured transportation, and reached Clarendon, where, being himself taken very sick, with an attack of fever, he turned over his stores to the Medical Director, Surgeon James C. Whitehill, and returned home.

In the meantime the Commission had forwarded additional supplies for this expedition, which were on the way to Helena, to be reshipped there up White river to Clarendon. Another agent, Mr. George M. Wyeth, who had been sent to Helena to act at that point, was now sent forward to take the place of Mr. Waterman. By the urgent advice of Surgeon Casselberry, Medical Director at Helena, he proceeded at once to join Gen. Steele's army at Duvall's Bluff, taking along the sanitary stores with him, which had previously arrived at Helena, and distributing them to the surgeons, for their sick, in general hospital, and to the regimental hospitals.

The army of Gen. Steele having advanced upon Little Rock, the capital of Arkansas, and after a battle with the rebel forces, under Gen. Price, captured the city, many sick were still left at Duvall's Bluff, where a general hospital had been established.

Better hospital accommodations, however, were found at Little Rock,

which now had become the head-quarters of the Army of Arkansas, and the sick were soon removed and provided for there. Mr. Wyeth immediately established his agency at Little Rock, and distributed to the hospitals, and camps of the army, according to their necessities, receiving regular shipments of supplies from St. Louis, and fulfilling the duties of his position with fidelity and success.

Among the testimonials of the great good accomplished by this agency, a letter was received, September 30th, 1863, from Rev. E. S. Peake, Chaplain 28th Wisconsin Infantry, who had assisted Mr. Wyeth, in his work, in which he says:

“The Sanitary Commission has accomplished so much good by providing and forwarding supplies of the articles most needed for the relief and comfort of the sick in the Arkansas expedition, that it gives me great pleasure to send a brief statement of the facts. Your agent, Mr. Wyeth, arrived at Helena in time to learn the wants of the expedition, and followed the army up White river, to Duvall’s Bluff, where our general hospital was established under temporary sheds. He brought some tons of sanitary stores, and remained there, attending to their proper distribution, until the order was given to remove all the sick to Little Rock. These supplies have been the means of saving many valuable lives to the army and to the country.

“Mr. Wyeth visited Little Rock by the first railroad train that came through, and took a tour of inspection through the hospitals, general and regimental, learning the actual condition of the sick, and their wants. He has sent to us all the supplies remaining at the Bluff, and has now gone to Helena, hoping to find another shipment from St. Louis at that point. The U. S. Sanitary Commission has sent its contributions to us through Dr. Fithian, so that we have been able to meet the call for aid, which comes from the hospitals of a large army, in a very satisfactory degree. We look upon this, however, as only the beginning in a great work of charity, which must be continued for several months to come.

“Let not our friends be weary in doing well. If they could see the good that they are doing, and the relief that their contributions afford, to the sick and wounded in the army, who, from their position, are helpless and dependent, it would prove an abundant encouragement and reward. The moral effect of this work upon the army is of great importance. It makes men braver and better soldiers and patriots, to see these tokens of interest, care, and love following them from their homes.”

On the same day, Surgeon James C. Whitehill, medical director at Little Rock, also wrote to the President of the Commission:

“Permit me through Surgeon J. T. Hodgen to acknowledge the receipt of a fine supply of sanitary stores, and on behalf of our soldiers to thank you and the generous donors for so opportune a testimonial of their and your continued care and sympathy. We have had a great deal of sickness, and the country through which we have passed has been able to furnish but little adapted to the wants of the sick soldier. I have myself receipted to your agent, Mr. Wyeth, for the goods received, and placed them under the care of a most reliable and worthy man, who attends to their faithful distribution. Your Commission is doing an inconceivable amount of good for our sick soldiery and deserves the hearty co-operation and liberal support of Christians and philanthropists.”

During the summer the Commission had also sent a shipment of stores to the colored soldiers at Fort Blunt, in the Cherokee country, which was duly received and acknowledged by Surgeon S. C. Harrington, of the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry, in a letter, in which he says: “The goods were exceedingly opportune, as there was a great destitution of such things here. Were it not for your Commission, the army must suffer greatly for want of those things it most needs.”

During the autumn of '63, generous supplies of sanitary stores were sent to the colored regiments, at Milliken's Bend, Goodrich's Landing, and Vicksburg. In a letter of Rev. Dr. Eliot, under date of August

21st, to friends in Boston, he wrote: "We have the whole army west of the Mississippi, to see to, and a large part of Gen. Grant's, and the gunboats, and the summer sickness are daily becoming worse. At Helena, where such grand fighting was done on the 4th of July, there are two thousand sick, left by armies moving forward. Gen. Steele writes, that he never needed our services more than now; and from every direction the claims come in upon us. We are making very large shipments daily, and are, this week, under the necessity of taking a large additional store-room for our bulky stores."

Under the same date, in answer to inquiries respecting colored troops, Mr. Yeatman writes: "We care for the sick and wounded colored soldiers, just as we do for the white. We have supplied a number of regiments in Louisiana, Mississippi, Kansas, and in this city. The accounts we have of them entitle them to our confidence."

During the fall and winter of 1863-4, Brig. Gen. Wm. A. Pile, organized three brigades of colored troops, at Benton Barracks, and in order that they might have every benefit that was possible, during the period of their organization and drill, the Commission purchased three thousand copies of Sargent's Standard Primer, for their use, and teachers were provided to instruct them in reading; their officers and Rev. Wm. H. Bradley, in the service of the Commission, taking part in this work. The sick of these brigades, in hospital, received the same treatment and attention as white troops; and sanitary stores were supplied, both from the Commission and from the Ladies Union Aid Society, as they were needed.

Among the acknowledgments received from the officers of colored troops, the following is given, from the colonel of the 1st Mississippi Vol. Infantry, A. D., dated:

"VICKSBURG, DEC. 29, 1863.

"REV. J. G. FORMAN,

"Sec'y Western Sanitary Commission:

"DEAR SIR—I forward enclosed herewith, a receipt for sanitary stores, so kindly sent to my regiment. They will be of great benefit

to my men, and I am very much obliged for so bountiful a supply. They will perform a great and needed good, not only for the sick, but for those on duty. I cannot but regard the prevention of disease, by suitable additions to the diet and comfort of the men, as important as it is to cure them, after they have filled the hospitals. I propose that my brave colored troops should have something extra on New Year's day.

"There is no limit to the good that can easily be done for this most susceptible people. How the minds of men have been blinded in regard to them ! What outrageous sins has not our white humanity to account for ! How dark blindness seems when one has passed from it to the broad light of day !

"The officers from the old 'Third Missouri' send their kindest regards.

"Yours, very truly,

"A. WATSON WEBBER,

"Colonel Commanding."

During the fall and winter of 1863-4 generous supplies were sent by the Commission to the Nashville Branch of the Ladies' Union Aid Society, of St. Louis, and to Mrs. Barker, and other ladies, who were laboring in connection with the U. S. Christian Commission, both there and at Murfreesborough, Tenn., in the general hospitals. The long-tried and faithful agent of the Commission, Mr. A. W. Plattenburg, also went forward to Nashville with stores, and afterwards up the Tennessee river, as far as Eastport, to Gen. Sherman's army, and still later established an agency at Huntsville, Ala., from which point liberal supplies of sanitary goods have been furnished to the hospitals, and of vegetables to the troops, eliciting the warmest expressions of gratitude.

In a letter of Mr. Plattenburg, dated March 4th, 1864, he says:

"The vegetables sent by the Commission were issued *directly* to the soldiers, and a more thankful and pleased set of men has not been seen since the war."

This was at a time of great scarcity of vegetable food, and when the scurvy was making its appearance among the troops.

During the recent winter, supplies have also been furnished to the gunboats, and to the naval hospital steamer, "Red Rover." Among the goods sent were seventy-five libraries of books, one for each boat in the flotilla, and seventy-five sanitary store chests to the same number of vessels, each chest containing a good supply of hospital clothing, bandages, lint, adhesive plaster, condensed milk, farina, and other articles useful to the sick.

On the return of the veteran regiments of Missouri troops, on furlough, to return to the war for another three years, they have been received with a generous hospitality by the city of St. Louis, provided for at Turners' Hall, and escorted through the city by the Home Guards, with marked honor. Whenever they have needed any thing from the Sanitary Commission, as they went back to the army, it has been freely given. The veterans of Illinois, Iowa, and other States, have been treated in like manner, as regards their sanitary wants.

The 33d Illinois infantry, which had been stationed in Texas, and re-enlisted as veterans, on returning from their furlough, received from the Commission a sanitary chest, filled with excellent stores. The following acknowledgment was afterwards received, in which there are some of the reminiscences of the siege of Vicksburg given:

"HEADQUARTERS MEDICAL DEPARTMENT U. S. FORCES IN TEXAS, }
 "FORT ESPERANZA, MATAGORDA ISLAND, Jan. 15, 1864. }

"REV. J. G. FORMAN,

"Sec'y Western Sanitary Commission :

"MY DEAR SIR: Your timely supply of sanitary goods has been received, and in behalf of our noble soldiers, I would return to the Commission our grateful thanks for this and many other manifestations of kindness and interest in our sick and wounded men. I take pleasure in adding my testimony to that of many others, of the vast amount of

good the Western Sanitary Commission has been instrumental in doing. I vividly remember the last 22d day of May, after the charge upon the fortifications of Vicksburg. Our division, (Gen. Carr's,) had about four hundred badly wounded men, brought into our division hospital on that day. We had been cut off from our base of supplies for over two weeks, had fought three successful battles, and had entirely exhausted all our medical and hospital stores. Our men were brought from the battle field with their winter clothing on, and in many cases their clothing and woolen blankets were saturated with blood, and covered with fly-blows, and we had no change to give them. We heard that communication was opened with Chickasaw Landing, twelve miles distant, and that a U. S. Government boat was there with supplies. At once, four wagons were sent there, with a request from the officer to send us the supplies that were so urgently needed, and the necessary papers could be executed afterwards. The wagons returned empty, and the men were told that nothing would be issued, unless the papers had gone through all the proper channels, and were tied with red tape, which would require several days to accomplish.

“One of the teamsters remarked to me, that he saw the boat of the Western Sanitary Commission, coming up the Yazoo river, as they were leaving. Our wagons were sent back, and our situation made known to that noble hearted gentleman, A. W. Plattenburg, agent of the Sanitary Commission, who at once loaded them with every thing necessary for the comfort and health of our wounded soldiers, and in a few hours a great change was seen in the hospital.

“The clothing was all changed, good beds were provided, nutritious food and proper stimulants prepared; and, but for this timely aid from your Commission, it is probable many of these poor soldiers would have died. This is only one instance. I could cite many others of a similar character, if time would permit.

“Go on in your noble efforts to ameliorate the condition of our unfortunate sick and wounded soldiers; and may God bless your efforts,

and put it into the hearts of our loyal people to contribute still larger means to enable you to accomplish a greater amount of good.

“Very respectfully,

“GEORGE P. REX.

“*Surgeon 33d Illinois Infantry,*

“*Medical Director U. S. Forces in Texas.*”

A very large shipment of sanitary goods has also been sent this winter, to the army of Gen. Banks, on the Red river, and the Commission is at this date, (May 16th, 1864,) sending forward all the stores that can possibly be shipped to the army of Gen. Sherman, at Chattanooga, Dalton and Tunnel Hill, Georgia, to be prepared for the care of the sick and wounded of his army. Mr. H. E. Collins, its efficient and energetic agent, (late Cashier of the Commission,) is at Nashville, Tenn., pushing them forward, that no time may be lost, no pains spared, to meet any emergency that may arise. He will go on to Chattanooga, leaving Mr. Albert Clark at Nashville, to attend to future shipments. Mr. James Tompkins, another agent of the Commission, is now at Chattanooga, and will go forward to the front with his stores as soon as he can communicate with the Medical Director.

Having thus exhibited something of the work of the Western Sanitary Commission for the soldiers and sailors of the western armies and navy, there are several questions often raised, which may be appropriately answered here:

It is sometimes asked what need there is of Sanitary Commissions? Why don't the Government do this work, and take proper care of the soldiers, without depending on voluntary contributions? The answer is plain. The Government can only act through a system of regulations, by its authorized agents, who must be governed by prescribed rules and limitations, and held to a strict responsibility, or there would be no end to the waste and loss and imposition to which it would be subjected. Hence the necessity of a fixed ration for the soldier, and of supply tables for the hospitals, by which so much can be drawn and

no more, the amount of hospital supplies being regulated according to the average number of sick. Thus it will often happen that the wants of an army in a time of sickness, or in an unhealthy locality, or after a battle, will greatly exceed the supplies on hand; and there is no way of meeting these emergencies, except through some such instrumentality as the Sanitary Commission.

In the army ration there is a deficiency of vegetable food. The amount of potatoes, for instance, to each ration, is not one-quarter of what would be a sufficient supply for a well man at home. In the hospitals it will barely answer for the hash that is given for breakfast, three times a week; and very often the proportion allowed to the well soldier is not given him, because the commissary has none. Sometimes for weeks and months, in the field, the regiments will receive no potatoes; and onions and other vegetables (still more rarely allowed) will be wanting. Such a want of vegetable diet soon engenders scurvy and other diseases that incapacitate the men for duty, and destroy life. To meet this want, the Western Sanitary Commission has forwarded many thousands of bushels of potatoes and onions, and thousands of cans of tomatoes, and kegs of pickles, to the army. And besides these supplies the surgeons in charge of hospitals make constant requisition for articles not furnished by Government, or not in sufficient quantity to meet the necessities of their patients.

Prejudicial stories have been circulated by many dissatisfied and fault-finding persons about the waste and consumption of sanitary stores by officers, accompanied by assertions that what is sent never reaches the private soldier. Much harm has been done in this way, by suspicious and evil-minded persons, discouraging contributions and preventing supplies from being sent to the army. In the early part of the war, before this great sanitary work had been reduced to a system, instances of waste and theft, and misappropriation of sanitary goods did no doubt sometimes occur; but even then they were the exception and not the rule. This evil has, however, been constantly

diminishing; persons detected in it have been disgraced and dismissed from the service; and a greater degree of responsibility has been secured, with more ample means of exposure, so that now the misappropriation of sanitary goods can scarcely take place without bringing disgrace and punishment on the parties engaged in it.

Nevertheless, the impression still prevails with many that the private soldier never gets any of the sanitary stores sent to the army, and many soldiers themselves, who have received them in their hospital diet, and at the Soldiers' Homes, slept in comfortable beds, rested upon soft pillows, worn dressing-gowns, and socks, and slippers, in sick wards, and eaten vegetables, fruits, butter and delicacies at their meals, (not being informed of the fact) have never known that these things came from the Sanitary Commissions.

An interesting illustration of this is mentioned by Rev. Glen Wood, General Agent of the American Tract Society, who has spent much time in the army, in the distribution of reading matter. During a visit to a general hospital, which I think he said was at Murfreesboro' or Jackson, Tenn., he engaged in conversation with a convalescent soldier in one of the wards, who had just finished a letter to his wife. The soldier said to him:

"I received a letter from my wife, away in Wisconsin, and she writes that the Soldiers' Aid Society are getting up some sanitary stores to send to us, and that she is helping to make up a nice lot of things. I have just written to her, and told her not to do any such thing; that the soldiers never get what is sent to them; and that the surgeons and stewards and officers only feast on them, while the common soldiers get none."

Several of the other soldiers responded to the statement of their comrade, "That's so; we never see any sanitary stores here."

Rev. Mr. Wood said, "My dear sir, I think you must be mistaken. I have been through the army a good deal, and have seen a great many things received by the soldiers that were sent from home, through the Sanitary Commissions, and otherwise."

He continued, addressing the first speaker, "I see you have on a comfortable dressing-gown, and socks and slippers, and clean sheets, and a pillow on your bed; where did you get these things from?"

"Well," said the soldier, "I reckon Uncle Sam fitted up this hospital, and these here articles came from the linen room."

Mr. Wood remarked again, "I noticed at dinner that you had potatoes, and pickles, and onions, and butter, and dried fruit, and tomatoes; where did you get these things from?"

"O," said the former speaker again, "I reckon Uncle Sam provided 'em, or may be they were bought with the hospital fund."

"But," says Mr. Wood, "such things can scarcely be bought here for love or money. I don't see any in the market, and the sutlers ask a great price for them. Suppose we call in the steward, and see if he cannot throw some light on this question."

The steward was then requested to come in, and Mr. Wood asked him if he would be kind enough to state to these men where most of the articles of hospital clothing that had been mentioned, and the butter and fruit and vegetables, and other delicacies on the table, had come from.

"Why, boys," said the steward, "didn't you know we got those things from the Sanitary Commission?"

Instantly the men dropped their heads in some confusion, and the first speaker replied, "No, sir, we didn't know it. Why didn't you tell us, and we shouldn't have said what we did to this gentleman. I hope he will excuse our mistake. As for me, I'm going to tear up my letter to my wife, (tearing it in pieces) and write her another, and tell her to go ahead with them sanitary stores, and right glad we shall be to get them."

The men seemed much pleased with this turn of affairs, and Mr. Wood left them, having made a most salutary impression, and giving them all the reading matter they wished.

There is no doubt that much harm has been done, by letters from men who are naturally croakers and fault-finders, in discouraging

contributions to the Sanitary Commissions. The well soldier, who has always enjoyed his health, ought not, of course, to receive the delicacies and comforts designed only for the sick, and for hospital use. The vegetables distributed by the Commission he eats, without inquiring where they came from, and writes home that he has never received any thing from the Sanitary Commission.

The following method was adopted by Surgeon Charles H. Hughes, 1st Missouri State Militia, to cure one of these croakers of his fault-finding spirit. Surgeon Hughes stands very high in the esteem of those who know him, and his statement is worthy of all credit. He says in a letter to the Secretary, from De Soto, Mo., May 2d, 1864, acknowledging the receipt of sanitary stores:

“I will tell you how I cured a croaker in the St. Louis Hickory street hospital once. He said the steward got half the things sent by the Sanitary Commission. I took every thing from him, for a week, which had been furnished him by the Commission, his pocket comb, pocket handkerchief, slippers, socks, and gown, and reading matter. I deprived him of the looking-glass, feather pillow, and comforts, and, for the two latter, gave him a hard, hair pillow and Government blanket, and let him take his meals at a separate table, on the rations furnished by the commissary, and bought out of the fund. After that he croaked about the parsimony of Uncle Sam, and I put him in the guard-house. When he rejoined his company he was effectually cured.

“Much wrong has been done to the Sanitary cause, and to medical officers in the service, by the letters of these croakers. People are foolish enough to believe them, not knowing that the things which are usually sent to, and relished by the sick, are unwholesome, oftentimes, to the stomach of a healthy man, because they vitiate his appetite for the more substantial food which he most needs. A physician seldom indulges in sweetmeats, and the wearing apparel, hospital clothing, etc., sent by the Commission, always bear a stamp, which would disgrace any one but the legitimate wearer—the patriot soldier.”

A strict accountability is maintained between the Western Sanitary Commission and all its agents in the field. Whenever stores are sent to the agents, they are forwarded by the United States quartermasters as Government freight, and they receipt for them, and are responsible for their delivery. When delivered to the agents of the Commission they receipt to the quartermasters, and the receipted bills of lading are returned to the chief quartermaster at St. Louis, and acknowledgments are also made to the Commission. When sanitary stores are distributed to the surgeons for the sick and wounded in hospitals, it is done in answer to written requisitions, and their receipts are taken and returned to the Commission at St. Louis. Piles of these documents are now on file at the Western Sanitary Commission rooms, and it can easily be shown what regiments and hospitals have received sanitary stores, and the use made of them, by the surgeons and stewards, inquired into.

The following General, Post, and Regimental hospitals are among the number that have been supplied by this Commission: New House of Refuge, St. Louis and City hospitals, General hospital, (corner of Fifth and Chesnut street,) Good Samaritan, Eliot, (Fourth street,) Pacific, Hickory street, Jefferson Barracks, Marine, Benton Barracks, Lawson and Small-pox hospitals, hospitals in Arnot's and Thornton & Pierce's buildings, Schofield Barracks and Military Prison; hospitals in Cairo, and Mound City, Ill.; at Paducah, and Columbus, Ky.; Pittsburg Landing, Union City, Jackson, Lagrange, Memphis, Nashville, and Murfreesboro', Tenn.; Corinth, and Vicksburg, Mississippi; Huntsville, Ala.; Helena, Clarendon, Brownsville, Duvall's Bluff, Fayetteville, Salem, and Little Rock, Ark.: Fort Blunt, Cherokee Nation; Young's Point, Milliken's Bend, Goodrich's Landing and Duckport, La.; hospitals of the 6th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th army corps; and of Quimby's, Hovey's, Steele's, Logan's, McPherson's, Heron's, Kimball's, McArthur's, and Blair's divisions; and of Thayer's, Irving's, Wilder's, and the Marine brigade; hospitals at Otterville, Pacific

City, Rolla, St. Joseph, Sulphur Springs, Sedalia, Tipton, Commerce, St. Charles, Ironton, Pilot Knob, Cape Girardeau, Lebanon, Patterson, Jefferson City, Kansas City, Springfield, Mo.; Fort Scott, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Fort Halleck, Idaho; Evansville, Ind.; Quincy, Ill; and Keokuk, Iowa. Many stores were also issued to convalescent camps, and personally to large numbers of convalescent soldiers.

Among the regiments supplied, are all the Missouri troops, from the 1st to the 37th infantry; from the 1st to the 14th cavalry; Wellfly's and the other Missouri batteries of artillery; Bissell's engineer corps; Benton and Fremont Hussars, and Merrill's and Curtis' Horse; the Iowa troops, from the 1st to the 40th regiments of infantry; and the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 9th Iowa cavalry; and the 1st Iowa and Dubuque and Dodge's batteries; the 2d, 4th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 17th, 18th, 20th, 26th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32d, 33d, 36th, 40th, 41st, 42d, 43d, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 53d, 54th, 55th, 56th, 61st, 62d, 63d, 76th, 77th, 81st, 87th, 90th, 93d, 94th, 95th, 97th, 99th, 101st, 103d, 106th, 108th, 111th, 113th, 114th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 122d, 124th, 126th, 127th, 130th, 131st, 145th, and 147th Illinois infantry; the 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th, and 10th Illinois cavalry; and Peoria, Mercantile, Board of Trade, Taylor's, and 1st Illinois batteries; the 7th, 8th, 11th, 12th, 16th, 18th, 23d, 24th, 25th, 34th, 39th, 43d, 47th, 48th, 49th, 53d, 54th, 56th, 59th, 60th, 67th, 72d, 83d, 93d, 96th, 97th, 99th, and 100th Indiana infantry; Coggsell's 1st Indiana battery; and the 1st Indiana cavalry; the 1st, 16th, 20th, 22d, 30th, 32d, 36th, 37th, 42d, 46th, 47th, 48th, 53d, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 68th, 70th, 72d, 76th, 77th, 78th, 80th, 83d, 95th, 96th, 114th, and 120th Ohio infantry; 5th Ohio cavalry; and the 2d, 4th, 8th, 11th, 16th, and 26th Ohio batteries; the 1st, 2d, 6th, 8th, 9th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 23d, 25th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 32d, 33d, and 41st Wisconsin infantry; 12th Wisconsin battery; and 1st, 2d, and 3d Wisconsin cavalry; the 2d, 7th, 8th, 12th, 15th, 20th, and 27th Michigan infantry; and 2d and 3d Michigan cavalry; the 3d, 4th, 5th, 11th, and 17th Minnesota infan-

try ; and 1st Minnesota battery ; the 1st, 2d, 5th, 10th, 11th, and 13th Kansas infantry ; and 1st and 5th Kansas cavalry ; the 1st Arkansas, (white), 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th Arkansas colored infantry ; and the 1st, 3d, and 4th Arkansas cavalry ; the 5th Maine infantry ; the 11th New Hampshire infantry ; the 32d Massachusetts infantry ; the 17th and 178th New York infantry ; the 34th and 35th New Jersey infantry ; and 2d New Jersey cavalry ; the 45th Pennsylvania infantry ; the 4th Virginia infantry ; the 7th, 19th, and 22d Kentucky infantry ; the 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Louisiana colored infantry ; the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, and 6th, Mississippi colored infantry ; and 1st Mississippi colored cavalry ; the 13th United States regular army ; and the 48th, 49th, 51st, 58th, and 59th United States colored infantry ; and 2d and 6th United States colored artillery.

The hospital steamers supplied by the Western Sanitary Commission, are the "*City of Louisiana*," afterwards refitted and named the "*R. C. Wood*," the "*D. A. January*," the "*Empress*," the "*Imperial*," the "*Red Rover*," the "*City of Alton*," the "*City of Memphis*," the "*Nashville*," and of the transports, conveying the sick and wounded, the "*Ruth*," the "*Glasgow*," the "*Diana*," the "*Nebraska*," and the "*Baltic*."

Of the gunboats of the Mississippi naval squadron, supplies have been sent to nearly all, among which the following may be named : the *Louisville*, *Mound City*, *Carondelet*, *Chillicothe*, *Judge Torrence*, *Lafayette*, *Naumkeag*, *Rattler*, *Autocrat*, *Black Hawk*, *Petrel*, *General Price*, *Romeo*, *Choctaw*, *Benton*, *Arenger*, *Tyler*, *Monarch*, *Switzerland*, *Pawpaw*, *Tawha*, *Key West*, and *No. 11*, there being many more, to whom contributions have been sent quite recently, including the whole Mississippi squadron.

In concluding the present chapter, it is deemed an appropriate place to mention the names of those female nurses, who, by long and faithful service, and special devotion to the care of the sick and wounded soldiers, in the St. Louis hospitals, have earned the gratitude of the West-

ern Sanitary Commission, and of those who have been the objects of their kind solicitude and self-sacrificing labors. In giving this list of honored names, it is not improbable that some will be omitted, who deserve a place in it, for it is made up under many disadvantages, and without all the means of a careful examination. It is also to be regretted that the Christian names of some are not within the knowledge of the writer, and cannot be easily obtained. The list is as follows: Mrs. M. I. Ballard, Mrs. E. O. Gibson, Mrs. L. D. Aldrich, Mrs. Houghton, Mrs. S. A. Plummer, Miss Carrie C. McNair, Mrs. Harriet Colfax, Mrs. Sarah A. Barton, Miss Ida Johnson, Miss Clark, Miss A. L. Ostram, Mrs. Lucy E. Starr, Mrs. Olive Freeman, Mrs. Anne M. Shattuck, Mrs. E. C. Brendell, Mrs. E. J. Morris, Mrs. Dorothea Ogden, Mrs. E. C. Witherell, Miss N. A. Shepherd, the Sisters of Charity at the New House of Refuge Hospital, Miss Emma L. Ingalls, Miss Emily E. Parsons, Miss Fanny Marshall, Miss Lonisa Maertz, Miss Harriet N. Phillips, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Nichols, Miss Rebecca Craighead, Mrs. H. A. Haines, Mrs. H. A. Reid, Miss Hattie Wiswall, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Maria Brooks, Mrs. Mary Allen, Mrs. Bickerdike, Miss Cornelia M. Tompkins, Mrs. M. A. Steller, Mrs. Carrie Gray, Mrs. M. J. Dykman, Misses Marian and Clara McClintock, Mrs. Otis, Mrs. Sager, Mrs. Peabody, Mrs. Rebecca S. Smith, Miss Melcenia Elliott, Mrs. C. C. Hagar, Mrs. J. E. Hickox, Mrs. Lucy L. Campbell, Miss C. A. Harwood, Miss Deborah Daugherty, Miss Phebe Allen, Mrs. Wells, Mrs. Ferris, and Miss Lucy J. Bissell.

Of these honored women, Mrs. E. C. Witherell laid down her life in this service. She had served very faithfully in the Eliot Hospital, St. Louis, for many months, and was always most gentle, kind, and unremitting in her attention to the sick and wounded. In the spring of 1862, she was transferred to the hospital steamer "*Empress*," as matron, and continued on her till the next July, when, on the 10th of the month she died, a victim of fever, contracted in performing the arduous duties of a nurse. The Western Sanitary Commission passed

a preamble and resolutions, commemorative of her virtues, in which she was mentioned as one who was "gentle and unobtrusive, with a heart warm with sympathy, and unshrinking in the discharge of duty, energetic, untiring, ready to answer every call, and unwilling to spare herself where she could alleviate suffering, or minister to the comfort of others." In self-sacrifice and devotion to duty she was regarded as "not a whit behind the bravest hero on the battle field," giving, as she did, her life for her country and humanity.

If the history of the present war shall ever be faithfully written, it will contain many touching incidents of woman's heroism, and a noble record of the inestimable services rendered by her, in the hospitals of the army, living in an impure atmosphere, amid scenes of suffering and death, that the soldiers of the Union may be gently nursed and cared for, and sent forth again to do battle for a righteous cause. A young woman is now present to the mind of the writer, and her name is in the foregoing list, who came from her country home, in Iowa, a volunteer to nurse her country's defenders, among whom were all of her own brothers, who were old enough to fight. She had education, strength, and a holy resolution to undertake the hardest service she could find. For months she served in the hospitals of Tennessee, went home alone in charge of the corpse of a neighbor of her father's, who had died in the hospital at Memphis, returned to St. Louis, and when, in one of the large hospitals, a volunteer was called for, to serve in the erysipelas ward, a position of danger and of trying service, while others were reluctant, she made a ready and willing offer of herself, was accepted, and spent months in the cheerful performance of her duty there, without a murmur or complaint. She is still filling a position of arduous service and much responsibility, and may occasionally be seen, leading a blind soldier, in his visits to the surgeon, for the treatment of his eyes, taking delight in every opportunity of doing good to those who are giving their lives for their country.

Another one we also knew, whose name is likewise in this simple

record, who, at Helena, Ark., in the fall and winter of 1862-3, was almost the only female nurse in the hospitals there, going from one building to another, in which the sick were quartered, when the streets were almost impassable with mud, administering sanitary stores, and making delicate preparations of food, spending her own money in procuring milk and other articles that were scarce and difficult to obtain, and doing an amount of work which few persons could sustain, living without the pleasant society to which she had been accustomed at home, never murmuring, always cheerful and kind, preserving in the midst of a military camp such gentleness, strength, and purity of character, that all rudeness of speech ceased in her presence, and, as she went from room to room, she was received with silent benedictions, or an audible "God bless you, dear lady, for your kindness to me," from some poor sufferer's heart.

When such women are willing to leave their pleasant homes, and forsake almost every comfort, for such a service, and in such a cause, there is still hope for the land of their birth; for while virtue and self-sacrifice remain, the cause of liberty and free government cannot perish from the earth, but must grow stronger and more triumphant with every conflict, as ages roll away.

CHAPTER X.

THE FREEDMEN OF THE MISSISSIPPI—FIRST EFFORTS FOR THEIR RELIEF AT HELENA—MISS MARIA R. MANN—MR. YEATMAN'S VISITS TO THE FREEDMEN, FROM ISLAND NO. 10 TO NATCHEZ—CHAPLAIN H. D. FISHER DETAILED AS AN AGENT OF THE COMMISSION TO MAKE AN APPEAL FOR AID IN NEW ENGLAND—GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED—MR. YEATMAN'S REPORT—CONDITION OF THE FREEDMEN—THE SUBJECT PRESENTED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT—MR. W. P. MELLEN AND MR. YEATMAN RETURN TO CARRY INTO EFFECT AN IMPROVED SYSTEM OF LEASING THE ABANDONED PLANTATIONS, AND OF SECURING BETTER WAGES TO THE LABORERS—SECOND VISIT TO WASHINGTON—MILITARY PROTECTION GIVEN—NATIONAL AND OTHER FREEDMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATIONS—MESSRS. MARSH AND FOSTER GO TO VICKSBURG AS AGENTS—TEACHERS SENT—DEATH OF ONE OF THE NUMBER—FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FREEDMEN ARRIVE WITH THE RETURN OF GEN. SHERMAN'S ARMY FROM MERIDIAN—THEIR CONDITION—AID GIVEN—UNION REFUGEES OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY—REFUGEE HOME AT ST. LOUIS—REFUGEES AT PILOT KNOB—LABORS OF SUPERINTENDENT A. WRIGHT—REFUGEE HOME AT VICKSBURG—SCHOOL FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN.

INCIDENTAL to its great work of ministering to the sick and wounded of the Western armies and navy, and of promoting the health and energy of our soldiers in the field, the Western Sanitary Commission has felt itself called to devote a portion of its labors to the relief of forty thousand freedmen, along the banks of the Mississippi river, from Columbus, Ky., to Natchez, many of whom, in their transition from the ownership and control of slave masters, to the condition of freedmen, have suffered untold hardships and privations, in a country stripped by the ravages of war, with no demand for labor, except in a few favored localities, nor any means of providing for their most urgent wants, food, clothing, and shelter. Seeing in them the victims of a life-long oppression, thrown destitute and almost naked upon the tender mercies of our armies in the field, many of them dying of exposure, hardship, and disease, the members of the Western Commission could not turn a deaf ear to their silent appeals for assistance and Christian sympathy.

Their attention was first called to the sufferings of these people at

Helena, in the beginning of the winter of 1862-3, where there were between three and four thousand, men, women and children, part of them living in a place back of the town, established for them, by Gen. C. C. Washburne, the previous summer, called "Camp Ethiopia," in the condemned and cast-off tents of the army, and in caves and shelters of brush—the best arrangement that could be made at the time, but wholly insufficient for winter. Others dwelt in the poorer houses of the town, sixteen and twenty persons occupying the same room, and others still in the few huts that remained on the neighboring plantations. The able-bodied men had been worked very hard on the fortifications of the place, and by the quartermasters, in unloading coal from barges and freight from steamboats, and also as grave-diggers, teamsters and wood choppers, and in all manner of fatigue duty. For these services many of them never received any compensation, through the neglect of the officers, having them in charge, to keep proper pay rolls, and the indifference of several of the military commanders, immediately succeeding Maj. Gen. Curtis. At one time an order was issued forbidding their payment, on the ground that their masters would have a claim against the Government for their services. All the while they were compelled to do most of the hard work of the place, and press-gangs were sent out to take them in the streets and put them to work, sometimes by night as well as by day, taking no account of their names or labor, and dismissing them without compensation. Sometimes they were shot down, and murdered with impunity.

Under such circumstances they were not able to provide for their families, and rations had to be drawn for them from the Government. Herded together as they were, in camps and the poorest dwellings, it was no wonder that they sickened and died at a fearful rate. The writer of this, who was then on duty at Helena, has seen the streets patrolled by mounted orderlies, to gather up the "contrabands," as they were called, for forced labor, while their women and children were driven from their little houses, to Camp Ethiopia, under an arbitrary military rule, with

a view of expelling them from the town; and there being no additional shelter at the camp, they had to suffer there, till the order became partially a dead letter, by reason of its inhumanity. A military order was as one time issued, to carry them beyond the lines, under which many of them were delivered up to rebel masters, in violation of the Articles of War. With hundreds of sick, their only hospital was a small building, not sufficient for the care of twenty persons.

It was under these circumstances, that the Western Sanitary Commission, early in January, 1863, sent to Helena, that excellent and philanthropic woman, Miss Maria R. Mann, with a large supply of sanitary stores, clothing, hospital goods, furniture, stove, &c., to fit up a better hospital for the sick of this class, and to minister generally to their wants.

At this time, Rev. Samuel Sawyer, chaplain of the 47th Indiana infantry, and Rev. J. G. Forman, chaplain of the 3d Missouri infantry, both of them on detached service at Helena, were doing what they could for these poor people, and welcomed the arrival of Miss Mann with great satisfaction. Mr. F. secured rooms for her and her stores in the same house occupied by himself and others, and the work of amelioration was immediately commenced. The hospital was soon renovated; and a month or two later, on the removal of a portion of the army, a larger and better building was obtained, when the sick of the freed people were better situated, and army surgeons were detailed to attend them. It was now known that a change of policy towards the emancipated people had been inaugurated by the Government. Adjutant General Thomas was on his way to look after these people, and organize regiments of fighting men from them, and the military commanders became more willing to grant favors in their behalf.

In the Spring a splendid regiment of the 1st Arkansas infantry, A. D., was recruited in a few days, commanded by Col. Wm. F. Wood, and a second was commenced. Miss Mann remained till the following August, performing a great amount of useful service to the wives and

children of these men, giving clothing to the poor and needy, selling to those who had money to buy with, and replenishing her stock with the proceeds; teaching women to cut and make their own garments, providing medicines for the sick, visiting them in their camps and dwellings, giving them excellent advice, and in every possible way improving their condition.

Her labors there were also sustained by friends in New England, with whom she was in correspondence, and several thousand dollars worth of clothing, material for clothing, medicines, etc., were used by her in the most judicious manner, Rev. Dr. Eliot, at St. Louis, acting for the Commission, as Treasurer of a special fund for this purpose, contributed mostly by humane people in New England. Rev. Jonathan E. Thomas, chaplain 56th Ohio infantry, was also detailed to assist in this work, and his humanity and kindness to the poor "contrabands," as well as the faithful service of Rev. Mr. Sawyer, and the devoted labors of Miss Mann, will long be remembered by them, and by the writer of this sketch, who was providentially associated with them, for a time, in their benevolent work. It is due to Major Generals S. R. Curtis, C. C. Washburne, and Prentiss, who were in command at Helena for a brief period, to say that it was not during their administration of affairs that the evils here narrated occurred, and that they were always ready to do whatever was in their power, for the amelioration of the condition of the colored people at that post.

During the month of October, '63, the condition of the freed people, along the Mississippi river, again enlisted the earnest consideration of the Western Sanitary Commission. The same state of things that had existed at Helena, was reported as existing at many other points, between Columbus, Kentucky, and Natchez, chiefly the result of neglect, inability to procure remunerative employment, failure of quartermasters to enroll and pay the freedmen their wages, and the helpless condition of many, in consequence of the taking of the strong and able-bodied men

for United States soldiers, leaving their wives and children, for a time, unprovided for.

On the 6th of November the Commission addressed a letter to the President of the United States, calling his attention to the condition of these people, the necessity of assistance, before another winter should set in, and proposing to assume the labor of soliciting contributions and extending relief, as an incidental part of its work. The proposal was favorably regarded, assurances were given by the Secretary of War that all possible aid would be rendered, in the way of transportation and otherwise, and, a few weeks later, Mr. Yeatman made a special visit down the river, to ascertain and report the actual state of things.

At the same time, Maj. Gen. Schofield, who gave his hearty approval and sympathy to the work, detailed, by special order, Chaplain H. D. Fisher, of the 5th Kansas Cavalry, to visit New England, under the direction of the Commission, and make a suitable appeal for contributions for this object. Mr. Fisher's visit was entirely successful, and very large contributions of clothing, material for clothing, shoes, and other necessary articles, amounting in value to about \$30,000, and \$13,000 in money, were obtained, by a committee in Boston, composed of Chas. G. Loring, *Chairman*, M. S. Scudder, *Secretary*, Alpheus Hardy, *Treasurer*, A. A. Lawrence, James M. Barnard, Wm. Endicott, Jr., Edward Atkinson, and sixteen others. These contributions came from Boston, Salem and other neighboring towns and cities, to whom the appeals of the Western Sanitary Commission have never been made in vain. Many valuable boxes of clothing material and shoes were sent by the Boston Educational Commission for Freedmen, of which Messrs. Barnard, Atkinson and Endicott, of the other committee, were also members.

On the 17th of December, Mr. Yeatman returned from his first visit to the freedmen of the lower Mississippi, and made a full report to the

Commission, of which five thousand copies were printed and circulated. He stopped at Island No. 10, at Memphis, Helena, Goodrich's Landing, Milliken's Bend, Young's Point and Vicksburg, the plantations of Jeff and Joe Davis, and at Natchez, and returning, visited some of these points a second time.

The report, consisting of sixteen pages of closely printed matter, is so full of information that it is impossible to make even an abstract of it for this work. It is sufficient to say, that he found about forty thousand of these people in camps, at the above and other places, between Cairo and Natchez, in various degrees of poverty and wretchedness; that among them he found several volunteer agents, missionaries, and teachers, from the United Presbyterians, the Friends, and the Freedmen's Aid Associations, laboring for their benefit as well as they could, without system or co-operation; that in the cotton growing region, from Goodrich's Landing to Vicksburg, on the abandoned plantations, leased by the Government, he saw over twenty colored men, and heard of others who had raised from five to ten bales of cotton, on their own account, proving their capacity for self-maintenance, with a fair chance; that where they were laboring under the lessees their wages were wholly inadequate, being but five dollars per month for women, and seven dollars per month for men, with subsistence of the poorest kind; that they suffered many wrongs under this system; that when they were employed by Government Quartermasters, to cut wood for steamboats, they were frequently not paid; that they were charged an unreasonable price for goods, and were really suffering wrongs and hardships, equal to those they had borne in a state of slavery, while they were enjoying none of the blessings of liberty.

Mr. Yeatman, in his report, thus sets forth some of the wrongs of these people: "Within the city of Memphis, not directly connected with any of the camps, or with the colored regiments, there are some *three thousand* freed men and women, mostly freed men, who are employed in various ways, and at various rates of compensation. Those

employed by Government, receive but ten dollars per month, while many could readily earn from thirty to fifty dollars per month. Those thus employed are outside of the military organization.

“To give an instance: One quartermaster told me that he had in his employment, a harness maker, to whom he could only pay ten dollars per month, while he was paying white men, doing the same work, forty-five dollars per month; and that the colored man could readily procure the same wages, were he allowed to seek a market for his labor in the same town. I saw a number of colored men pressed into service, (not military,) to labor at the rate of ten dollars per month, one of whom petitioned to be released, as he had a good situation at thirty dollars per month. The firemen on the steamboat on which I was a passenger from St. Louis to Memphis, were all colored, and were receiving forty-five dollars per month. These men were afraid to go ashore at Memphis, for fear of being picked up and forced into Government employment, at less than one-fourth their existing wages.

“Besides the fact that men are thus pressed into service, thousands have been employed for weeks and months, who have never received any thing but promises to pay. This negligence and failure to comply with obligations, have greatly disheartened the poor slave, who comes forth at the call of the President, and supposes himself a free man, and that, by leaving his rebel master, he is inflicting a blow on the enemy, ceasing to labor and to provide food for him and for the armies of the rebellion. Thus he was promised freedom, but how is it with him? He is seized in the street, and ordered to go and help unload a steamboat, for which he will be paid, or sent to work in the trenches, or to labor for some quartermaster, or to chop wood for the Government. He labors for months, and at last is only paid with promises, unless perchance it may be with kicks, cuffs, and curses.

“Under such treatment, he feels that he has exchanged one master for many masters; these continued abuses sadden and depress him, and he sighs to return to his former home and master. He, at least, fed,

clothed, and sheltered him. Something should be done, and I doubt not, will be done, to correct these terrible abuses, when the proper authorities are made to comprehend them. The President's proclamation should not thus be made a living lie, as the Declaration of Independence has too long been, in asserting the inalienable rights of man, while the nation continued to hold millions of human beings in bondage."

In another place he says :

"The poor negroes are everywhere greatly depressed at their condition. They all testify that if they were only paid their little wages as they earn them, so that they could purchase clothing, and were furnished with the provisions promised, they could stand it; but to work and get poorly paid, poorly fed, and not doctored when sick, is more than they can endure. Among the thousands whom I questioned, none showed the least unwillingness to work. If they could only be paid fair wages, they would be contented and happy. They do not realize that they are free men. They say that they are told they are, but then they are taken and hired out to men who treat them, so far as providing for them is concerned, far worse than their "secesh" masters did. Besides this they feel that their pay or hire is lower now than it was when the "secesh" used to hire them. This is true."

And yet, under all their accumulated wrongs, these people manifest a wonderful faith in Divine Providence; they seem to be sensible that God has some better thing in store for them, and to realize that, through this wilderness of suffering and sorrow is the only path to their deliverance. Mrs. Porter, at Camp Holly Spring, near Memphis, related to Mr. Yeatman an instance of this. When she first went there to teach, an old negro came out to meet her, whose head had been whitened by the frosts of ninety winters, and who was almost blind, supporting himself by his staff. With his hand stretched forth he accosted her, saying, "Well, you hab come at las'. I'se been 'spectin' you, lookin' for you, for de las' twenty years. I knowed you would come, and now I rejoice." She

said, "I have come to teach you." "Yes, yes, I know it, and I tank de Lord."

At this same camp Mr. Yeatman saw a colored man, who, after his return from his work, was seated in his cabin, surrounded by his own children and a few others from the adjoining cabins, teaching them their lessons for the morrow. At another school he met an old woman, aged eighty-five, who was intent on her books. When asked if she was not too old to begin to learn, she said, "No," that she must learn now or not at all, as she had but little time left, and she must make the most of it. When asked what good it would do her, she said "she could read de bible, and teach de young." At other places similar instances of faith and piety, and the desire of knowledge, were witnessed.

Mr. Yeatman was most favorably impressed with the capacity of the negroes to become soldiers. He gives an account of several successful expeditions, under Col. Farrar, at Natchez, in which they brought in prisoners. In one instance he says, "The prisoners were much chagrined at being taken by negroes, and asked if they could not have another guard to take them through town; but as they were captured by negroes, they had to be guarded and escorted by them."

He says of another experience he had, "In going from Goodrich's Landing to Milliken's Bend, I was escorted by twenty colored troops, mounted on mules captured from the enemy. They rode gallantly and fearlessly, putting our their advance guard and arranging themselves in true military order, conducting themselves with as much propriety as an equal number of well behaved gentlemen. When we arrived at the Bend, and dashed into the fort, surrounded by troops, my companion—Dr. May—and myself, dressed in citizen's clothes, and mounted in an old wagon, were taken for prisoners, and our escort was called out to by the soldiers, "Rebs! Rebs!" and an amount of ivory displayed that I have seldom seen exceeded.

"I could but compare my first visit to this point years ago, when I landed to take charge of a large estate, as executor, with my present

one. It was here in these swamps that I first saw and knew what a dead, leaden thing slavery is, and the wrong and injustice which could be inflicted, even by one, considered the kindest and most humane of masters. I doubt not the seed was then sown in my heart which has since germinated, and makes me now not only willing, but anxious to labor for these poor sons of toil. What a revolution a few short years has brought about! Who can doubt that an infinitely wise and just God governs the world?"

On submitting his report to the Commission, Mr. Yeatman was delegated to visit Washington, and present this subject to the Government. In doing so, he also presented a series of printed "suggestions of a plan of organization for freed labor and the leasing of plantations along the Mississippi river." His report and suggestions were most favorably received at Washington, and he was urged and authorized to accompany Mr. W. P. Mellen, the special supervising agent of the Treasury Department, to Vicksburg, to mature and carry them into effect. This trust of the Government he accepted, as a voluntary work, declining an official position, which was offered him; and he proceeded a second time, now in company with Mr. Mellen, to the region of the leased plantations, near Vicksburg.

The new plan of labor—in view of the high price of cotton, and the profit to be derived from its cultivation—provided that the freedmen should receive from \$12 to \$25 a month, according to age, sex, ability, etc.; that there should be a secure method of enforcing the contract for labor and wages; that the lessee should furnish goods at an advance of ten per cent. on the cost; that there should be established "Home Farms," under a superintendent, for the young and old, the infirm and destitute; that there should be schools and teachers, for all children under twelve years old; and that a tax should be paid to the Government of four dollars, on each bale of cotton raised, and of two cents per pound, for the support of the "Home Farms," and the schools; and that the system should be carried out by commis-

sioners of plantations, acting under the Treasury Department, who should see that justice is administered; that the freed people are treated as free, and encouraged to respect and observe the institutions of religion, marriage, and all the customs of virtuous and civilized society, and to become worthy of the blessings of a Christian civilization.

On their way down the river, Messrs. Mellen and Yeatman had a new form of lease, and printed regulations prepared at Memphis, and on arriving at Vicksburg, inaugurated the new order of things. At first it met with some opposition from the old lessees, who saw in it a diminution of their gains; but seeing that it was promulgated with authority, it was acquiesced in, local agents were appointed, and about six hundred plantations were immediately leased, under the new system.

The withdrawal of the troops, from some of the districts, had caused considerable discouragement at first, but on a second visit of Messrs. Mellen and Yeatman to Washington, the Secretary of War was induced to give the services of the Marine Brigade, for the purpose of affording protection to the plantations and freed people; and the work of growing cotton, the present year, is already progressing with satisfaction to all concerned, with a great improvement in the prospects of the laborers, and their ultimate success as independent cultivators of the soil; for the more intelligent of them do not fail to see the advantages of possessing land of their own, and are ambitious to work for themselves, instead of a master. In almost every instance where they attempted, last year, to cultivate cotton, on their own account, they were entirely successful, numerous instances of which Mr. Yeatman gave in his published report.

While these changes were being effected, a National Freedmen's Relief Association had been organized in New York city, and a Northwestern Freedmen's Relief Commission at Chicago, besides which there were two similar associations already existing at Cincinnati, and another was formed at Indianapolis. Harmonious relations were at once estab-

lished between these Associations and the Western Sanitary Commission.

On the 11th December, Messrs. Wm. L. Marsh and H. R. Foster, from the National Freedmen's Relief Association of New York, arrived at St. Louis, with a letter of introduction from Hon. F. G. Shaw, the President of the Association, on their way to Vicksburg, to establish an agency there, for the distribution of goods to the needy, the sale of them to those who could pay, and for the employment of teachers to instruct the people. Mr. Yeatman was at the time down the river; but these gentlemen, seeing the advantages of co-operation and unity of purpose, consented to act also as agents of the Western Sanitary Commission, and thereby secured an arrangement for the re-shipment of their goods from St. Louis to Vicksburg, which they were expecting from New York, and the Commission also secured the benefit of their valuable services, as agents in the field.

Very large shipments of clothing soon began to arrive from New York, directed to Mr. Marsh, and were forwarded with shipments from the Western Sanitary Commission, at the earliest period. They were unfortunately delayed several weeks by the severe cold of December and January, which closed the navigation for awhile, but were ultimately received, and accomplished great good. Of the proceeds of the goods sold by these gentlemen, on account of the Western Sanitary Commission, they have returned \$1000. Their services have been in every respect most useful and satisfactory, and have been extended to Natchez, and other places besides Vicksburg.

During the winter they wrote to the Commission to send them two teachers, to assist in the work of instruction and distribution at Vicksburg. Miss A. M. Knight, of Sun Prairie, Wis., and Miss Sarah J. Hagar, of this city, were commissioned, and their services have been very acceptable and useful. In February, Mrs. Lydia H. Daggett, of Boston, a very excellent and capable person, was sent into the same field, to act under the direction of Mr. Marsh.

Within a few days, the friends of Miss Hagar have been pained to

receive the news of her unexpected death, at Vicksburg, from a sudden attack of disease. She was a devoted and estimable young woman. It is due to her memory, that the following letter, from Mr. Marsh, should have a place here, since she died in the service of the Commission, and in so good a cause.

“NATCHEZ, May 6, 1864.

“REV. J. G. FORMAN,

“*Sec'ry Western Sanitary Commission:*

“MY DEAR SIR—You have already received from Mr. Mann, the sad intelligence of the death of Miss Hagar, one of the teachers sent by you, to labor among the freed people in this valley.

“I was at Natchez when she was taken ill, and did not receive intelligence of it in time to reach Vicksburg, until after her death, which occurred on Tuesday, May 3d.

“In her death, the Association have lost a most *earnest*, devoted and Christian laborer. She entered upon her duties at a time of great suffering and destitution, among the freedmen, at Vicksburg, and when we were much in need of aid. The fidelity with which she performed her labors, and the deep interest she manifested in them, soon endeared her to us all. We shall miss her sorely; but the noble example she has left us, will encourage us to greater efforts and more patient toil. She seemed to realize the magnitude and importance of the work upon which she had entered, and the need of Divine assistance, in its performance. She seemed also to realize what sacrifice *might be* demanded of one engaged in a work like this, and the summons, although sudden, did not find her unprepared to meet it. She has done a noble work, and *done it well*. The sacrifice she made, is the greatest one that can be made for any cause, the *sacrifice of life*. ‘Greater love than this, hath no man; that a man lay down his life for his friends.’ She has gone to receive her reward.

“The family thus suddenly bereaved, and plunged in affliction, by this sad occurrence, has our sympathies and prayers. When they meet

to perform the last sad rites due to the dead, may they not look in the close, narrow, burial-case for their loved one, but rather raise their eyes to behold a spirit, freed from earthly fetters, clothed in spotless robes, and wearing the crown bestowed only upon those who prove faithful to the end.

Respectfully,

“W. L. MARSH.”

Besides the labors of Messrs. Marsh and Foster at Vicksburg, the regular agent of the Commission, Mr. N. M. Mann, has taken a deep interest in the same work, and though much occupied in the superintendence of the Soldiers' Home, and the care of the refugees, he has found time to lend a helping hand. An interesting letter was received from him, dated the 7th of March, in which he gives a full account of the arrival of the four thousand five hundred freedmen, who returned with Gen'l Sherman's Army, from Meridian, and of his distributions of food and clothing among them. “Anticipating a need,” he says, “I had drawn heavily on the Commissary for bread and had a large amount on hand. I had the ambulance of the Western Sanitary Commission loaded with this bread, and taking along half a dozen kind-hearted soldiers, we went the whole length of this wagon train and gave to each family a loaf or two. It was but a little thing to do, but the eagerness with which they took and ate it told how grateful it was to them. I assure you I never was more happy than that night, amid all that wretchedness, giving bread to those hungry creatures. That night they lay on the levee, in their wagons, and on the ground. Many who came from plantations this side of Jackson were without conveyances, having walked in, bearing their “effects” on their heads. The next morning they were sent on Steamboats to camps at Davis' Bend, and Oswego Landing, and in company with Mrs. Harvey, of Wisconsin, and Miss Dart, a teacher from New England, I went to Oswego with a quantity of old clothing, furnished by the National Freedmen's Relief Association, of New York, for distribution. To all the most destitute, or rather the most torn and naked, for all are destitute, we gave some of the

more necessary articles of clothing. I only wish that the donors of those articles could have witnessed the distribution. I do not know where on the face of the globe, out of the Southern Confederacy, a thousand people could be got together that would present to charity so strong an appeal as these. I wish I could send to every Northern home of plenty, a photograph of these bare-footed, ragged, half-naked creatures, as they appeared to me that day. They had been fed, and although their destitute, filthy, tattered and homeless condition was enough to draw tears from a heart of stone, many were cheerful and gave evidence that, with a very little comfort, they would be happy. The endurance of the negro has always been a marvel. It was never so much so as now. It is his difference from the white man, in this respect, that is to save him, if he is saved, in this great trial."

The Union refugees have also received a share in the labors of the Western Sanitary Commission. During the fall and winter of 1861-2 many refugees were driven, by the rebels, from the interior and southwest parts of Missouri to St. Louis, and were in a condition of want and suffering. A home, on Elm street, was opened for the most helpless and destitute, and others were assisted, according to their necessities. Mr. John Cavender, an old and respectable citizen, eminent for his integrity and christian character, devoted his whole time to their care. A fund was raised at first, by a call of the Western Sanitary Commission, amounting to about \$3,800, besides a large amount of clothing. A further sum of \$15,000 was raised by an order of Maj. Gen. Halleck, by assessing the wealthy class of secessionists, in St. Louis, for this object, and from this resource Mr. Cavender was able to render very important aid to these persecuted and destitute people. For two years he took almost the entire charge of this work, in which he had the counsel of the members of the Commission, and was sometimes aided with funds for the purpose, when other sources failed. During the winter of 1863, Mr. Cavender, whose health had been failing, was taken sick and died, and there was but little demand from that time, till the next

September, for any further aid to the refugees. In this charitable service no one could have been more faithful and constant than Mr. Cavender had been; and in other relations and duties, during an honorable and well spent life, he had been distinguished as the upright citizen, and patron of christian learning and philanthropy, and his death was greatly lamented.

In August, '63, there began to be further arrivals of destitute refugees from Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas. Many of them were women, with small children, poorly clad, often barefooted, brought up the river on Government steamers, and landed here, without the means of procuring a place of shelter for a single night. Their husbands had been killed in the war, had been murdered by guerrillas, had been conscripted into the rebel army, or had died from the effects of exposure in lying out in the woods, in dens and caves of the earth, to escape the blood-hounds of the rebel conscription. At first these poor refugee families fell into the hands of the police, but the police station was not a fit place for them, although some of them found shelter there.

One day, late in August, the President of the Commission was called to see what could be done for a poor blind woman, and her family of six children, who had walked all the way from Arkansas to Rolla, Mo., her little children leading her several hundred miles by the hand, and from Rolla they had been brought on the cars to St. Louis, as a charity. They were in an upper unfurnished room of the Pacific hotel, the woman, and a boy about twelve years old, being sick, and she totally blind. They sat upon the floor, clothed in rags, and presented a sight that would have moved the stoutest heart to pity and to tears.

The children of this woman, whose name was Mrs. Hargrave, were adopted by Rev. Dr. Eliot, and placed in the Mission school on Eighth street, and the mother was sent to the St. Louis hospital, kept by the Sisters of Charity. Her youngest children she had never seen, they having been born since she became blind. The parting of the blind

mother from her little ones was a touching scene. But she gave them up willingly, knowing it to be a necessity, and for their good. At the Sisters' hospital, her health, after several months, was restored, and, by a surgical operation of Dr. Pope, the cataracts were removed from her eyes, and she was able to see. Her children were then brought to her, and the meeting can be better imagined than described.

A little later, another refugee mother came, and, with two little children, stood at the door of the Commission, on Fifth street, having no place to which she could go. They were barefooted, dusty with travel, and miserably clad. The mother told her sad story.

Her husband had been murdered by guerrillas, near Fort Smith, Ark., and she had walked, with her children, to Rolla, riding part of the way in Government wagons, and had reached St. Louis, as a place of refuge. She had to stay at the police station that night. The next day, three women and children arrived from Jackson, Tenn., in an equally destitute condition. There was no alternative but to open another refugee home. The President of the Commission rented the house, 39 Walnut street, for the purpose, on the 1st of September, and from that date to the present, not less than fifteen hundred refugees have been sheltered, provided for, or sent on their way to friends, or places of employment, in the free States. By an arrangement with Generals Schofield and Rosecrans, rations and fuel are allowed from the Government, and the rent is paid by the Quartermaster; but the incidental expenses of the home, and the charities in clothing, money, &c., are provided by the Commission. It is under the superintendence of Rev. Mr. Forman, the Secretary of the Commission, and its domestic arrangements are conducted by Miss M. Elliott, as Matron, who, in a spirit of true self-sacrifice, devotes her time and strength to the service of these poor outcasts from the rebellion. The expenses and charities of the Home, and for destitute refugee families in the city, and to those going beyond St. Louis, have been about \$1,000 in six months, beyond the aid received from the Government in rations, fuel, rent, and trans-

portation. Several valuable boxes of clothing have been received from New England; also contributions of money from Boston, from the Ladies' Loyal League, of St. Louis, and from various other sources. The receipts for this charity and for the Freedmen, and the disbursements are kept separate from the other funds and resources of the Commission, so that there is no misappropriation of what is designed for the soldiers to these objects. Contributors are always requested to designate the object of their charities, and if no designation is made, they go into the sanitary fund.

The number of refugees at Pilot Knob, at the present time, is over 1700 persons, mostly women and children. They are chiefly from Arkansas, and are under the superintendence of a faithful and excellent man, Chaplain A. Wright, who has been specially assigned to that duty. Contributions to the value of several thousand dollars in goods, clothing, shoes, medicines for the sick, hardware and sash to assist in building cheap houses, and over \$1000 in money have been sent to Mr. Wright, and expended in a judicious manner. At a time of special distress the Commission sent him fifteen barrels of clothing, eighty dollars in material for clothing, (purchased by Mrs. General Fisk) twenty dollars in money, sixty dollars in medicines, thirty dollars worth of glazed sash, half a dozen axes for women, who cut their own wood; and of the other contributions a large portion was collected by Mrs. Fisk, who made visits to Pilot Knob, and was most energetic and successful in her endeavors to relieve and benefit these poor people. Brig. Gen. Fisk, also, while commanding the District, did every thing in his power to minister to their wants.

The Western Commission also responded to an appeal from Mr. J. R. Brown, agent U. S. Sanitary Commission at Leavenworth City, for aid to refugees at that post, and at Fort Scott, Kansas, and sent thirty boxes of clothing to those points, and a thousand Union Spellers for schools of the freed children at Leavenworth.

At Rolla, Springfield, Cape Girardeau, Cairo, Columbus, Memphis,

Helena, and Vicksburg, there are multitudes of these poor refugees, numbered by thousands, who have come to us from rebel persecution and outrage, or have been driven, by the ravages of war, and the destitution of food and clothing, to seek a refuge within our lines. Humanity requires that they should be aided, at least to the extent of saving life, and to enable them to reach places, where employment and subsistence can be found.

Recently a necessity has arisen for a Refugee Home at Vicksburg, and the Commission has established one there, under the superintendence of Mr. Mann, with Mrs. Maria Brooks for matron. It was opened on the 1st of April, and has already received and aided 2,160 of these poor people. On the 7th of May, there were 620 remaining, mostly women and children. Transportation had been furnished to those wishing to emigrate North, and employment for the able-bodied men.

The large number of destitute white children, belonging to these families, having no means of instruction, has induced the Commission to send a teacher, Miss G. C. Chapman, to Vicksburg, to open a school for them, in connection with the Home, also under Mr. Mann's superintendence. This lady is now on her way, with a supply of school books for this purpose.

In all these enterprises of benevolence, Mr. Mann, as the agent of the Commission, has had the sanction, advice and co-operation of General McArthur, commanding at Vicksburg, who has assigned to the Commission suitable buildings for the purpose, and shown his great friendliness in this and many other ways.

CHAPTER XI.

RESOURCES OF THE WESTERN SANITARY COMMISSION—APPROPRIATIONS BY THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE OF MISSOURI—LIBERALITY OF ST. LOUIS—DONATIONS FROM MASSACHUSETTS AND CALIFORNIA—GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE—CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE WOMEN OF THE LOYAL STATES—DISTRIBUTIONS BY THE COMMISSION—NUMBER OF ARTICLES GIVEN—ESTIMATED VALUE, ONE AND A HALF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS—EXPENSES OF THE COMMISSION FOR SALARIES OF AGENTS, RENTS, AND DISTRIBUTION OF STORES LESS THAN ONE PER CENT.—FRIENDSHIP OF MAJOR GENERALS FREMONT, HALLECK, CURTIS, SCHOFIELD, ROSECRANS, SHERMAN, AND LIEUT. GEN. GRANT FOR THE COMMISSION—ALSO, OF ASSISTANT SURGEON GENERAL WOOD, GEN. ALLEN, COLONELS PARSONS, MYERS, HAINES, AND MAJ. SMITH—LADIES UNION AID SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS—ITS WORK—RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS—FREEDMEN'S RELIEF SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS—ITS WORK—RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS—MISSISSIPPI VALLEY SANITARY FAIR—CONCLUSION.

The resources of the Western Sanitary Commission have consisted of the voluntary contributions of the people of the loyal States. Noble men and women in the leading towns and cities of New England, in the great Northwest, and in a few of the great cities of the seaboard—Boston, Providence, New York, and Philadelphia—have for nearly three years given liberally of their means and influence to strengthen this Commission, and help it to do the work which Providence has given it to do.

But, beside all these, the city and county of St. Louis, and the Legislature of Missouri, have acted with a generosity and patriotism worthy of all honor. In addition to the liberal contributions of the citizens, during the first year of the labors of the Commission, the late Gov. Gamble, from an appropriation by the Convention of Missouri, for the benefit of Missouri troops, placed \$50,000 in the treasury of the Commission, to be used for sick and wounded soldiers of the State of Missouri. This sum was used, not by singling out that class of soldiers for special care, but, caring for all United States soldiers alike, an ac-

count was kept of the extent to which Missouri troops shared in these benefits, and the amount, being far beyond the appropriation, the State authorities were abundantly satisfied and pleased with the use made of these funds.

Again, in the winter of 1864, the Legislature of Missouri made another appropriation of \$25,000 to the Commission, to be used in the same way, and the county court of the county of St. Louis made a donation of \$2,000. Besides these gifts, there was raised, at the Merchants' Exchange, St. Louis, a liberal subscription of money and goods to the Commission, for the army of Gen. Grant, during the siege of Vicksburg, amounting in value to about \$5,000, and December 25th, 1863, a committee of the merchants, of which Mr. Joseph C. Cabot was chairman, raised another subscription of \$25,000 additional, for the general purposes of the Commission.

Besides a constant flow of contributions from Boston and neighboring towns and cities of Massachusetts, that city at one time, through a committee, of which R. C. Greenleaf was treasurer, in response to an appeal from Rev. Dr. Eliot, on behalf of the Commission, contributed \$50,000; and the distant State of California, stimulated by the eloquence and patriotism of the lamented Thomas Starr King, subscribed \$50,000, being part of a donation of \$200,000, the balance of which went to the United States Sanitary Commission. These contributions of money, with the gifts of friends in New York city, through that noble and patriotic citizen, James A. Roosevelt, and from other towns and cities of the loyal States, have amounted in the aggregate, to \$275,000 in money; while the stores contributed from the same sources, and from the Ladies' Union Aid Societies, of almost every village and city from Maine to Minnesota, and from Boston to St. Louis, consisting of blankets, comforts, sheets, pillows, pillow-slips, socks, slippers, mittens, bandages, lint, salves, cotton and woolen shirts and drawers, hospital garments, dressing gowns, dried and canned fruits, tomatoes, jellies, domestic wines, blackberry cordials, butter, vegeta-

bles, pickles, books, reading matter, and thousands of other useful articles, have amounted in value to more than a million and a quarter of dollars.

Out of these contributions, the Commission has issued to the western armies, 985,984 articles; 28,838 to the western navy; 80,505 to freedmen, and 5,848 to Union refugees, making an aggregate of 1,101,174 articles.

In addition to these, many thousands of articles were given out during the first three months of the labors of the Commission, that no account was made of; and we have reason to believe, that many thousand more have escaped entry; it is so difficult, in the hurry occasioned by a great battle, or a pressing emergency, to keep an accurate record. During the months of June, 1863, and February, '64, the distributions of the Commission reached 184,333 articles. These, it is true, were busy months, but not more so than those which succeeded the battles of Fort Donelson, Pea Ridge, and Pittsburgh Landing. During the first nine months of the labors of the Commission, its records show a distribution of over 250,000 articles, so that we are quite confident of a large under estimate in the statistics here given, but they accord with the books, and we are not willing to make any exaggerations. The expenses of the Commission, during the whole period of its labors, for the salaries of agents, employees, rents, etc., is less than one per cent. of the whole amount distributed. The services of the members of the Commission, which includes the President and Treasurer, are gratuitous.

Through all this immense labor, from September 5th, 1861, to the present date, the Commission has enjoyed the friendly confidence and co-operation of every commander of the Department; and to Major Generals Fremont, Halleck, Curtis, Schofield, and Rosecrans, to the Secretary of War, and to Lieut. Gen'l Grant, and Maj. Gen'l Sherman in the field, it is much indebted for their support, and the facilities it has enjoyed in the transportation of supplies, in letters of commendation, in access to the armies, in the respect paid to it by surgeons

and subordinate officers, and in varied opportunities of usefulness. To Assistant Surgeon General R. C. Wood, Gen. Robert Allen, Colonels L. B. Parsons, and William Myers, of the Quartermaster's Department; to Col. Haines and Capt. King of the Commissary Department, and to Maj. Robert Smith, of the Pay Department, the Commission is indebted for many favors, and for obliging and gentlemanly treatment on all occasions.

The names of contributors to the funds and stores of the Commission, it would be a pleasure to record here, yet their number is so great, and the space allotted to this work already so nearly filled, that the writer is not able to do them this honor; but their names are registered, in the Lamb's Book of Life, recorded by the angels in Heaven, and they will all be known and recognized in the resurrection of the just.

Before concluding this work, it remains to give a brief account of two co-operative associations in St. Louis: the Ladies' Union Aid Society, and the Freedmen's Relief Society, and to notice the Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair, now in successful operation, while these concluding pages are being written—an enterprize inaugurated for the benefit of the cause in which the Western Sanitary Commission, and these kindred associations, are engaged.

The Ladies' Union Aid Society of St. Louis was organized August 2d, 1861. Mrs. C. W. Stevens was the first President. Its officers at present are, Mrs. Alfred Clapp, President; Mrs. Sam'l C. Davis, Mrs. T. M. Post, and Mrs. Robert Anderson, Vice-Presidents; Mrs. S. B. Kellogg, Treasurer; Miss H. A. Adams, Recording Secretary, and Miss Belle Holmes, Corresponding Secretary. Miss A. S. Debenham and Miss S. F. McCracken have also acted as Secretaries in the absence of the regular Recording Secretary, for several months, at Nashville, Tennessee.

The friendly connection and co-operation of this association with the Western Sanitary Commission has already appeared in the course of these pages, and want of space now precludes a full statement of its

separate work, which has been already made public in a valuable report of forty-eight pages for the year 1863.

The work of the society has consisted in hospital visiting, in aid to soldiers' families, in the distribution of religious reading, from the Christian Commission, in volunteering as nurses after the great battles, in making up hospital garments and rolling bandages, in receiving and distributing sanitary stores, in preparing delicate food for the sick, at its special diet kitchen at Benton Barracks, where 19,382 dishes had been prepared from May 20th to October 1st, 1863, and in assisting the Western Sanitary Commission in its work. Of articles made, up to October 1st, 1863, its report shows 37,676 sheets, 2,664 shirts, 1,765 pairs of drawers, 2,568 bed sacks, 79,324 pillow cases, 3,558 towels, amounting to 127,555 articles. In doing this work, soldiers' wives were given employment, and \$6,130.85 paid out for the purpose, the articles being used by the Western Sanitary Commission, and the Medical Purveyor. The receipts of the Society, in money alone, up to Sept. 25th, 1863, had been \$31,137.42, and its disbursements \$28,987.85. Its receipts in sanitary stores have been very great, coming largely from the noble women of St. Louis, and its distributions of the same class of articles issued by the Western Sanitary Commission, to Oct. 1st, 1863, were 225,134 articles.

The Freedmen's Relief Society of St. Louis is a local organization of ladies, who have rendered most useful service and aid in behalf of the poor freedmen, and their families at St. Louis, and in sending contributions to Memphis, Helena, and other points on the lower Mississippi. Their co-operation with the Western Sanitary Commission has been very efficient, and thousands of poor "contrabands," at Benton Barracks, and elsewhere, have had occasion to bless them.

The officers of this association are Mrs. Washington King, *President*, Mrs. Lucien Eaton, *Vice President*, Mrs. C. C. Bailey, *Treasurer*, Mrs. Wm. T. Hazard, *Corresponding Secretary*, and Mrs. Enos Clarke, *Recording Secretary*. Its Board of Managers are Mrs. H. A. Nelson,

Mrs. H. Kennedy, Mrs. O. H. Platt, Mrs. N. Chapman, Mrs. Wm. McKee, Mrs. J. H. Parker, Mrs. Dr. McMurray, Mrs. John McLean, Mrs. Truman Woodruff, Mrs. L. Brawner, Mrs. W. D. Butler, and Miss A. L. Forbes. The following gentlemen are also an advisory committee:—Rev. H. A. Nelson, D.D., Rev. Henry Cox, Lucien Eaton, Esq., and Henry Hitchcock, Esq.

During the summer of 1863, several thousands of freedmen were brought from Helena and elsewhere, to St. Louis, and quartered in the old Missouri Hotel; a hospital was opened for the sick, on Sixth street, and the society had its hands full in assisting to clothe them, and minister to their necessities. Many of these people were afterwards forwarded to Kansas, Iowa, and Illinois, as hired laborers. But a large work still remained for the freedmen's families at Benton Barracks, where there are many rejected recruits, and families of colored soldiers, to be assisted and provided for. A school for colored children is now taught at that place, by Miss Knight, a lady employed by the Western Sanitary Commission, books are furnished, and a similar work of instruction is carried on for the colored soldiers while they remain.

The receipts of this society, for the year 1863, were, in money, \$4,863.20, and its expenditures \$3,800.36, and its receipts and disbursements in goods, clothing, etc., a large, but unestimated amount. The articles of clothing distributed were 4,356, besides large quantities of linseys, osnaburgs, and blue checks, to be made into garments. Five hundred dollars were also appropriated towards a church and school house, at Island No. 10, and 93 boxes of clothing, were sent to Columbus, Memphis, Helena, Bolivar, Pittsburg Landing, and Benton Barracks.

As the last pages of this work are passing through the press, a noble enterprize is in progress, in this city, for replenishing the funds of the Western Sanitary Commission, and of these kindred and co-operative associations, that they may be enabled to go on with their noble and philanthropic labors, during the continuance of the war. The great

fairs that had been held in the large cities of the East, and in Chicago and Cincinnati, in aid of the United States Sanitary Commission, gave nothing to the funds of the Western Commission. Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, neighboring States, have poured their great and generous contributions chiefly through that channel and their own agencies; while their own regiments, as this history will show, have been the constant care of the Western Sanitary Commission, both in the field and in its Soldier's Homes. With large and increasing demands upon its treasury and supplies, its resources had begun to fail. The example of other cities suggested the idea of a Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair at St. Louis, and the enterprise was commenced in the latter part of the month of January, by a large preliminary meeting, at Mercantile Library Hall, presided over by the Mayor of the city, Hon. Chauncey I. Filley; at which an organization was effected for this purpose. Speeches were made by the Mayor, by Rev. William G. Eliot, D. D., by Brig. Gen. C. B. Fisk, by Maj. Gen. W. S. Rosecrans, by Maj. McKee Dunn, and Professor Amasa McCoy. A letter was read from Lieut. Gen. Grant, in which he expressed the heartiest sympathy in the undertaking, and bore testimony to the many tons (amounting to thousands,) of sanitary stores furnished to his army by the Western Sanitary Commission. The following officers and committees were then elected, to inaugurate and conduct this great enterprise.

Maj. Gen'l W. S. Rosecrans, *President*; Gov. Willard P. Hall, *1st Vice President*; Mayor C. I. Filley, *2d Vice President*; Brig. Gen. C. B. Fisk, *3d Vice President*; Brig. Gen. J. W. Davidson, *4th Vice President*; Mayor Jas. S. Thomas, *5th Vice President*; Sam'l Copp, jr., *Treasurer*; Maj. Alfred Mackay, *Cor. Secretary*.

STANDING COMMITTEE.—James E. Yeatman, Wm. G. Eliot, George Partridge, Carlos S. Greeley, John B. Johnson,—members of the Western Sanitary Commission.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF GENTLEMEN.—James E. Yeatman, *Chair-*

man, J. H. Lightner, E. W. Fox, Sam'l Copp, jr., Geo. D. Hall, S. R. Filley, Charles B. Hubbell, Jr., James Blackman, Wm. D'Oench, Wm. Patrick, J. O. Pierce, Gustavus W. Dreyer, H. A. Homeyer, B. R. Bonner, Adolphus Meier, Chas. Speck, Wm. Mitchell, Wm. Adriance, George E. Leighton, M. L. Linton, Wm. H. Benton, Dwight Durkee, Amadee Valle, Wyllys King, George P. Plant, Morris Collins, J. C. Cabot, N. C. Chapman, John D. Perry, S. H. Laflin, Jas. Ward.

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Various subordinate committees were afterwards appointed, representing all the trades and branches of business in St. Louis, and a committee was appointed to conduct a department in the Fair for the benefit of freedmen and Union refugees, so that contributions might be made for this charity, by itself, and kept separate from the general sanitary work of the army.

Appeals were immediately sent out to the people of the Mississippi

valley, and to the whole country ; the newspaper press of St. Louis lent their columns, with great generosity, to the promotion of the enterprise, and published largely in its interests; and friendly papers abroad have given it all the publicity that could be desired.

The merchants and private citizens, the noble men and women of St. Louis, have taken hold of the enterprise with a generous zeal, and determined to make it a decided success. Friends in Boston, New York, New Bedford, New Haven, have made handsome donations, and some of them have sent representatives to aid in the work. While these labors were being performed, a splendid building was erected on Twelfth Street, from Olive St. to St. Charles St., 500 feet long and 114 feet wide, with wings on Locust street, 100 feet each in length, beyond the main building, and 54 feet wide, with an octagon centre 75 feet in diameter, and 50 feet high. A stereoscopticon has also been built at one side; and the whole has been arranged, decorated, divided into apartments, and filled with contributions from art and nature, of the most valuable kinds. From the mineral and agricultural, and manufacturing resources of Missouri and the great west, from lakes and oceans, and rivers, from battle fields and farms and workshops, and stores of merchandize, gifts have come that make one of the most beautiful and valuable collections that has ever been gathered on this continent.

Besides these contributions in goods, at the opening of the Fair, on the 17th of May, \$200,000 in money had already been given towards the object, of which much the largest portion comes from the citizens of St. Louis, a city that has probably suffered more from the war than any of the loyal cities of the Union.

For three days the Fair has been in successful progress, and before it closes, this sketch of the labors and history of the Western Sanitary Commission will be added to its contributions, and explain more fully the great work for which it has been held, and to which its results will be sacredly appropriated. Written under a pressure of other duties, and without opportunity of revision, its chapters going to press as fast as

they can be given to the printers, it must needs contain some imperfections and errors, and some omissions will doubtless have occurred; but a frequent demand has been made for such a work, and it is hoped that it will be of some service to the great cause we have at heart, and give to the world a better appreciation of the labors and sacrifices that are necessary to sustain our heroes in the great conflict in which we are engaged—a conflict of the free States of the Republic with the slave-power of the South, which has undertaken to divide our country, build itself up on the ruins of a beneficent Government, and perpetuate, through coming ages, the crime of holding millions of the human race in bondage. In this contest, in which the Providence of a just God is clearly seen, vindicating itself, let it be our part to be found on the side of humanity, of Christian civilization, of liberty and law; and may God save the right!

INDEX.

	PAGE.
Accountability of agents.....	104
Alexander, C. T., Surg. U. S. A.....	66
Allen, A. L., M. D.....	66
Allen, Gen. Robert.....	132
Appeal of Western Sanitary Commission, 57, 58—Response.....	59, 114
Army of the Frontier, 60—Agents and stores sent to.....	60
Army of the South-West, 28—its arrival at Helena, 55—its toilsome march, 55—its privations and bravery, 55—sickness at Helena.....	55
Arkansas Post, battle of,.....	60, 69
Arnot's building converted into a hospital.....	45
Atkinson, Edward.....	114
Azpell, T. F., Surg. U. S. V.....	27, 44, 45
Battles, of Booneville, Dug Spring, Carthage and Wilson's Creek, 5—of Lexington 9—of Pea Ridge, 15, 27—of Fort Donelson, 23—Naval fight at Memphis, 53—of Cross Hollows, 60—of Cane Hill, 60—of Prairie Grove,.....	61
Banks, Gen., his army supplied.....	99
Bailey, Dr.....	5
Barker, Mrs.....	96
Barnard, James M.....	59, 114
Benton Barracks.....	13, 14
Benton Barracks Hospital, 10, 73—number of patients, 73—per centage of deaths.....	73
Bixby, Geo. H., Ass't Surg. U. S. N.....	54
Blunt, Gen.....	60
Bloomfield, Mo.....	91
Boston, Mass., its liberality.....	59
Bottomley, L. H., M. D.....	66
Bradley, W. H., M. D.....	66
Bradley, Rev. Wm.....	95
Breckenridge, Miss.....	69
Breed, B. B., Surg. U. S. V.....	87
Brooks, Mrs. Maria.....	12
Cabot, Joseph C.....	130
California, liberal donation.....	130
Calloway, L. H., M. D.....	64
Cane Hill, battle of.....	60
Cape Girardeau.....	92
Carthage, battle of.....	5
Casselberry, Surg., U. S. V.....	92
Cavender, John, 124, his labors for refugees, death and character.....	124, 125
"Champion," Steamer sent with Sanitary goods to Vicksburg.....	77
Chapman, Miss G. C., teacher for refugees at Vicksburg.....	128
Chattanooga, stores sent to, 99—agent there.....	99
Christmas at Soldiers' Home.....	37
Christian Commission, U. S.....	83, 96
"City of Alton," hospital boat.....	75, 106
"City of Louisiana," hospital boat.....	25, 44, 45, 106

"City of Memphis," hospital boat.....	46, 106
Clapp, Mrs. Alfred.....	69, 132, 136
Clark, Mrs. Wm.....	69
Clark, Albert.....	99
Clarendon, Ark.....	92
Columbus, Ky., Soldiers' Home at.....	83
Collins, H. E.....	99
Colt, Mrs. Henrietta L.....	69
Colored troops, 74—sick of at Benton Barracks.....	74
Conclusion.....	138
Contributions, from what States, Cities, and Towns, 10, 11, 12, 46, 59, 114—from Boston, 114, from other sources.....	127, 129
Copeland, Gen.....	90
Cotton on leased plantations, 119—taxed, 119—raised by freedmen for themselves.....	120
Couzens, Mrs. J. E. D.....	69
Crawshaw, Mrs. J.....	69
"Cresecent City," hospital boat.....	44, 45, 106
Cross Hollows, battle of.....	60
Cullum, Geo. W., Brig. Gen.....	15
Curtis, S. R., Maj. Gen., 15, 34, 113, 131—letter of.....	34
Daggett, Mrs. Lydia H.....	121
Dart, Miss.....	123
Davidson, J. W. Brig. Gen.....	91
Davis, C. H. Comandore, his Letter to the Commission.....	56
De Camp, Medical Director.....	5, 16
Deodorizing colin.....	51
Derby, Surg. U. S. A.....	56
Diseases at Benton Barracks, winter of '61-2.....	13
Distributions of Sanitary Stores, 15, 47, 77—to Grant's army, 78, 94, 97—to Banks' Army, 99—at Memphis, 75—what Hospitals supplied, 104, 105—what Regiments sup- plied, 105, 106—what Hospital Steamers supplied, 106—what Gunboats supplied, 106 —to Freedmen, 121—to Refugees, 127—whole number of articles.....	131
Dix, Miss D. L., Sup't of Female Nurses in the U. S. Hospitals.....	7, 20
Drummer Boy, 81—death of.....	81
Duvall's Bluff.....	92
Educational Commission for Freedmen, Boston, 114—Contributions from.....	114
Eliot, W. G., D. D., 8, 113, 130—Letter of, 94—orphans adopted by.....	125
Eliot Hospital, St. Louis.....	10
Elliott, Miss Melcena.....	126
"Empress," Hospital boat.....	44, 45
Endicott, Wm., Jr.....	114
Farrar, Col.....	118
Fifth Street Hospital, St. Louis.....	8, 9
Fish, Rev. J. F., Post Chaplain.....	66
Fithian, Dr., agent U. S. Sanitary Commission.....	93
Fisher, Rev. H. D.....	114
Fisk, Mrs C. B., 127—her labors for refugees.....	127
Fisk, C. B., Brig. Gen.....	127
Floating Hospitals, origin of.....	25
Flying Hospitals.....	62, 63
Forman, Rev. J. G., Secretary.....	16, 112, 126
Fort Donelson, battle of, 23, 131—wounded brought to St. Louis.....	24
Fort Blunt, 94—Sanitary Stores sent to.....	94
Foster, R. K., Supt.....	84
Foster, H. R.....	121
Franklin, E. C.....	27
Fremont, John C., Maj. Gen.....	7, 10, 13, 131

Fremont, Mrs.....	7
Fremont Relief Society.....	18
Freedmen of the Mississippi, 110—sufferings of, 110—relief sent to Helena, 112—labors of Miss Maria R. Mann at Helena, 112, 113—visit of Mr. Yeatman to, 114—letter of the Commission to the President concerning them, 114—Chaplain Fisher's visit to New England on account of, 114—arrival of at Vicksburg, 123—distributions to, 123—Freedmen's Aid Committee formed at Boston, 114—Educational Commission, 114—contributions from, 114—other associations, 115—wages of Freedmen not paid, wrongs by military authorities, 116, 117—Freedmens' Home farms.....	119
Freedmen's Relief Society of St. Louis, 133—its officers, 133—its work.....	134
Friends.....	115
Fritz, Wm., M. D.....	66
Gamble, late Governor.....	129
Gangrene Hospital, Memphis.....	75
Gayoso Hospital, Memphis.....	75
Gibbon, John.....	37
"Glasgow," Hospital transport.....	75
Good Samaritan Hospital.....	10
Grant, U. S. Maj. Gen., 68, 131—his care of the health of his Army.....	72
Greeley, C. S.....	8
Greenleaf, R. C.....	59, 130
Grove, J. H. Surg., U. S. V.....	23, 74
Guerrillas Destroy Sanitary Stores, 91—Murder.....	126
Guests at Soldiers' Homes.....	35, 36, 82, 84, 85, 86
Gunboats, 53, 69—supplied with Stores, 106—rebel Gunboats destroyed at Memphis....	53
Hagar, Miss Sarah J., Teacher to Freedmen, 121—death and character.....	122
Haines, Col.....	132
Halleck, Maj. Gen.....	13, 131
Hamilton, Gen. T. C.....	80
Hammond, Dr. Wm. A., Surg. Gen., U. S. A., Letter to.....	49
Hardy, Alpheus.....	114
Hargrave, Mrs., blind refugee.....	125
Harrington, S. C., Surg.....	94
Harvey, Mrs., of Wisconsin.....	81, 123
Helena, Ark., occupied, 55—sickness there, 55—churches converted into hospitals, 55—Soldiers' Home at.....	84
Herron, Gen.	61
Hodgen, John T., Surgeon U. S. V.	9
Hoge, Mrs.	69
Holly Springs, Miss.	68
Hopkins, Surgeon U. S. N.	54
Hospitals.....	5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 14, 27, 45, 56, 64, 65, 66, 75, 86, 87, 89
Hospital Cars.....	10
Hospital Steamers.....	25, 26, 44, 45, 46, 54, 75
Hughes, Charles H., Surgeon U. S. V.	103
Hunt, Wm. Richardson, (rebel), 80—Mansion converted to a Soldier's Home	80, 81
Hunter, Maj. Gen.	10
Huntsville, Ala.	96
Illustration, of erroneous complaints.....	101
"Imperial," Hospital Boat.....	44, 45
Incidents.....	11, 34, 37, 91, 101, 117, 118, 125, 126
Ironton.....	14
Jackson Hospital, Memphis.....	75
"January, D. A." Hospital Boat.....	44, 45
Jefferson City, Mo.	14
Jefferson Barrack's Hospital.....	64, 65

Jefferson Hospital, Memphis.....	75
Johnson, J. B., M.D.	8
Johnson, Miss Ida	83
King, Capt.....	132
King, Rev. T. S.....	130
King, Mrs. Washington.....	69
Knight, Miss A. M.....	121
Ladies' Union Aid Society, St. Louis, 18, 23, 69, 70, 96—officers of, 132—its work.....	133
Ladies' Union Aid Societies,	130
Ladies Loyal League.....	127
Lamb, Mrs. Thomas.....	59
Latham, H., M. D.....	66
Lawrence, A. A.....	114
Lawson Hospital.....	64, 66
Leeds, Mr.....	64
Leslie, S., M. D.....	66
Letters, of Gen. Curtis, 34—of Mr. Yeatman, 71, 95—of Col. Parsons, 43—of the Commission, 49, 114—of Commodore Davis, 56—of Chaplain Peake, 93—of Surg. Whitehill, 94—of Surg. Harrington, 94—of Rev. Dr. Eliot, 94, 95—of Col. Webber, 95—of A. W. Plattenburg, 96—of Surg. Rex.....	97
Livermore, Mrs. M. A.....	69
Lodgings at Soldiers' Homes.....	36, 37, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86
Loring, Chas. G.....	114
Mann, N. M., Supt.....	84, 123
Mann, Miss Maria R.....	112, 113
May, Dr.....	118
Marine Brigade.....	120
Marine Hospital, St. Louis, 64—ditto at Memphis.....	75
Marsh, W. L., 121—letter from.....	122
Marston, J. J., M. D.....	66
McArthur, Gen.....	128
McLane, P., M. D.....	65
McClelland, J. A., Maj. Gen.....	69
McKim, Rev. Philip, Chaplain	66
Massachusetts.....	59
Meals at Soldiers' Homes.....	36, 83, 84, 85
Memphis Captured, 53—Soldiers' Home at, 80, 81, 82—hospitals at.....	75
Merchants' Exchange.....	130
Mellen, W. P., Treasury Dept.....	119, 120
Military prisons at St. Louis, 45, 88—at Alton, Ill., 88—report of.....	88
Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair, 134—its organization, 135—its success.....	137
Mission School, St. Louis.....	125
Missouri Legislature, appropriation of.....	129, 130
Missouri troops cared for.....	129, 130
Monnd City Hospital.....	27
Murphy, Col. R. C., disgraced.....	70
Myers, Col. Wm. M.....	132
"Nashville," hospital boat.....	75
National Freedmen's Relief Association.....	120, 123
Naval Squadron of the Mississippi.....	53, 54, 56, 57
New England, its liberality.....	59
Newell, Rev. F. R., agent, 61—his death.....	62
New House of Refuge Hospital.....	5
New Orleans Soldiers' Home.....	83
Nightingale, Florence.....	3, 20
Northwestern Freedmen's Aid Commission.....	120

Nurses, Female, qualifications of, 20—number employed, 21—General Order, 20, 21—character of Nurses, 20—premiums awarded to, 42—only allowed to General Hospitals, 74—list of honor.....	107
Nute, Chaplain E., Sup't.....	83
Officers' Hospital, Memphis.....	75
Orange, S. J., Sup't, 83—Mrs. Orange, matron.....	84
Origin of Sanitary Commissions, 3—of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, 4—of the Western Sanitary Commission.....	4-7
Ostram, Miss A. L.....	35, 83
Overton Hospital, Memphis.....	75
Pacific Hospital, St. Louis.....	10
Paige, Jas. A., Chaplain.....	64
Parsons, Col. L. B., Letter of.....	43, 131
Parsons, Miss Emily.....	73, 74
Partridge, George.....	8
Peabody, Rev. Chas., Sup't, 35—Peabody, J. H., Surg., U. S. V.....	64
Pea Ridge, Battle of, 27, 131—wounded, 27—Agent sent with stores, 29—his account of.....	30, 32
Peake, E. S., Chaplain, Letter of.....	93
Pettigrew, S., Chaplain.....	66
Phelps, Mrs. John S., her heroism at Pea Ridge.....	34
Pittsburg Landing, battle of, 42, 131—wounded of, 43, 44—delegations and hospital steamers sent for them.....	43, 44
Plattensburg, A. W., 29, 30, 33, 34—letter of.....	96
Plummer, Mrs. S. A., matron.....	83, 84, 85
Post Hospitals, St. Louis.....	74, 87
Prairie Grove, battle of, 61—supplies furnished.....	61
Premiums, given to best stewards, nurses, etc.....	39
Pope, Dr.....	126
Pope, Maj. Gen.....	2
Porter, D. D. Admiral.....	57
Prentiss, B. M. Maj. Gen.....	113
Questions answered.....	99, 100, 101, 102
Randolph, J. F. Surg. U. S. A.....	65
"Red Rover," naval hospital boat.....	54, 97, 106
Reid, Rev. H. A., 12—Mrs. Reid.....	12
Refugees, 124—their destitution, 124—fund raised for, 124—further arrivals, 125—Sad story, 126—at what places, 127—distributions to.....	124, 127
Refugee Homes at St. Louis, 124, 126—at Vicksburg, 128—School for.....	128
Reports, of soldiers' Homes, 38, 81—of Mr. Yeatman's visit to Grant's army, 71, 77—of freedmen.....	114, 119
Resources of Western Sanitary Commission.....	129
Rex, Geo. P. Surg. 33d Ill. Infantry, letter of.....	97
Ripley, L. B.....	16
Robb, Maj. T. P.....	75
Rolla, Soldiers' Graves there.....	14, 15
Roosevelt, Jas. A.....	130
Rosecrans, Major Gen.....	131
Rumbold, T. F., M.D.,	66
Russell, Ira, Surgeon U. S. V.....	73, 74
"Ruth," Hospital Transport.....	75
Sanitary Stores, number and value of articles issued.....	131
Sawyer, Rev. Samuel.....	112, 113
Schofield, Maj. Gen.....	114, 131
Scollay's deodorizing coffin, 51—Report on it.....	51, 52, 53
Scudder, M. S.....	114
Secessionists assessed for Refugees.....	124

Sedalia	14
Sherman, W. T., General, 68, 131—his care for the sick of his army	72
Sick and wounded in St. Louis hospitals, 14—number of, 45, 87—of Grant's army.....	72
Sisters of Charity.....	3, 125
Smith, Maj. Robt.....	132
Small Pox, 14—Hospital at St. Louis.....	14, 87
Special Diet Kitchen.....	74
Soldiers' Homes.....	35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 80, 81, 83, 84, 85
Soldiers at the Soldier's Home—From what States, 36, 82, 84, 85, 86—Character....	36
St. Louis Hospitals	5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 14, 45, 64, 65, 66, 75, 86, 87
St. Louis, its liberality, 129—County Court.....	129
Starr, Mrs. Lucy E., Matron	83
Steele, Major Gen.	92
Surgeons of the Regular Army.....	17
Tax on Cotton growing.....	119
Telft, J. E.....	60, 61
Thanksgiving at Soldiers' Homes.....	37
Thomas, J. E., Chaplain.....	113
Thornton & Pierce's building converted to a hospital.....	45
Tilton, R. H., Surg., U. S. A.....	65
Tompkins, James.....	90
Union Hospital, Memphis.....	75
United Presbyterians.....	115
United States Sanitary Commission.....	4, 93, 135
Value of contributions estimated.....	131
Ventilation in Marine Hospital, St. Louis, 64—ventilating stoves introduced.....	64
Veteran regiments, 97—cared for by Missouri.....	97
Vicksburg, 68—battle of, 68—wounded from.....	69
Visitors of hospitals, 18—noble women, 18—soldiers' tribute.....	19
Wages of Freedmen.....	115, 116
Wagner, Dr.....	45
Warriner, Dr. H. A.....	75
Washington Hospital, Memphis.....	75
Washburne, C. C., Maj. Gen.....	111, 113
Waters, O. E., Sup't.....	80, 83
Waterman, H. J.....	91, 92
Webber, Col. A. W., Letter of.....	95
Webster Hospital, Memphis.....	75
Wells, Mrs. Shepherd.....	74
Western Sanitary Commission, origin of, 4 to 7—of whom composed, 8—its rooms, 16—appeal of, 57—resources of.....	129
Whelan, W., Surg., U. S. N.....	57
Whitehill, Jas. C., Surg., U. S. V., 92—Letter of.....	94
White, Frank W., Surg., U. S. V.....	87
Wilson's Creek, battle of.....	5
Wood, Asst Surg. General.....	26, 72, 74, 132
“Wood, R. C.,” hospital boat.....	26
Wood, Rev. Glen.....	101
Wood, Col. W. F.....	112
Wounded, at new House of Refuge Hospital, 6—from Fort Donelson, 23—of Pea Ridge, 28, 29—of Pittsburg Landing, 42—of Vicksburg, 69, 77—Arkansas Post.....	70
Wright, J. J. B., Surgeon U. S. A., Medical Director, 16—Relations to the Western Sanitary Commission.....	17
Wright, Chaplain A., Sup't. of Refugees at Pilot Knob, 127—His work.....	127
Yeatman, Jas. E. 8—His visit to Gen. Grant's army, 71—His report, 72—His second visit, 76—Report, 77—Visit to the Freedmen of the Mississippi, 114—His report, 114— His suggestions, 119—Visit to Washington, 119—Suggestions carried into effect	120

FINAL REPORT

OF THE

Western Sanitary Commission,

FROM

MAY 9TH, 1864, TO DECEMBER 31ST, 1865.



SAINT LOUIS :

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1866.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

Previous Reports of the Commission, 1-2.—The Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair, 3-5.—Financial Report of the Fair, 5-13.—Letter of General Grant, 16.—Names of the Officers and Committees of the Fair, 18-35.—Acknowledgment of the Western Sanitary Commission, 35-37.

CHAPTER II.

The Commission supplied with Funds from the Proceeds of the Fair, 38-39.—Supplies sent to the Army of General Sherman, 39-41.—Acknowledgment and Views of the Commanding General, 41-43.—Appropriations to the Ladies' Union Aid Society, Ladies' Freedmen Relief Association, and the War Relief Committee of St. Louis, 43-44.—The Smizer Farm Gift by the County Court of St. Louis, 44.—Establishment of a Soldiers' Orphans' Home at Webster, in St. Louis County, 44-46.—Supplies sent to Union Prisoners at Andersonville, Ga., 46-49.—Correspondence with General Sherman, 47-51.—Supplies sent to Hospitals and Regiments at Memphis, Vicksburg, Helena, Duvall's Bluff, Little Rock, St. Louis, &c., from May to December, 1864, 51-52.—Invasion of Missouri by General Sterling Price, 52.—Demands on the Commission for Clothing and Hospital supplies for the Union Troops, 52-53.—The Influx of Refugees at St. Louis, 53-55.—Work for them at St. Louis and other points, 55.—Visits of Mr. Yeatman to Fields of Operation in the Valley of the Mississippi, 55-56.—Troops sent to the Territories to quell the Indians, 56.—Large Demands made for Sanitary Supplies, especially of Vegetables and Anti-Scorbutics, 56.—Generous Shipments forwarded to the Plains, 57-59.—Colored Soldiers Supplied, 61.—Acknowledgment, 61.—Women Nurses in the Hospitals, 62-63.—Mr. Yeatman's Plan of a Sisterhood of Charity, 63-64.—Acknowledgment of Donations, 64-65.

CHAPTER III.

Soldiers' Homes and Agencies, 66.—The Home at St. Louis, 67-71.—The Home at Memphis, 71-78.—The Home at Columbus, Ky., 79.—The Home and Agency at Vicksburg, Miss., 79-80.—The Home and Agencies at Helena, Ark., 81-82.—The Home and Agency at Duvall's Bluff, Ark., 82-83.—Agency at Little Rock, Ark., 83.—Statistics of Soldiers' Homes Consolidated, 83-84.

CHAPTER IV.

Refugees and Freedmen, 85.—Statistics, 86.—The Charity Ration for Refugees and Freedmen, 86.—Statistics, 87.—Co-operation of the Commanding Generals of the Department of the Missouri, and of the District of St. Louis, 87.—Refugee Orphans, 88-89.—Touching Incidents, 89-92.—A Case of Persecution, 90-92.—Refugees at Pilot Knob, 92-94.—Refugees at Rolla, 94-95.—Refugees at Springfield, Mo., 96-99.—Refugees at Cape Girardeau, Mo., 99.—Refugees at Leavenworth and Fort Scott, Kansas, 99-102.—Refugees at Vicksburg, Miss., 102-103.—Refugees at Helena, Ark., 103-104.—Refugees at Nashville, Tenn., 104.—Refugees at Chattanooga, 104-105.—Refugees at Little Rock, Ark., 105-106.—Letter of Governor Murphy concerning them, 106.—Relief sent by the Commission, 106-107.—Refugees' and Freedmen's Home established on Broadway, at St. Louis, 107-109.—Co-operation of the Ladies' Union Aid Society, and Ladies' Freedmen Relief Association, in its management, 107-109.—Special Aid by the Presidents of these Societies and others in this work, 109.—Letter of Mr. Yeatman to Mr. Odierne concerning Refugees at Cairo, Memphis, Little Rock, Duvall's Bluff and Vicksburg, 110-111.—National Bureau of Refugees and Freedmen, 111.—Letter of Mr. Yeatman to Major General O. O. Howard, Commissioner of the Bureau, 111-115.—Letter of the Secretary to General Howard, giving Receipts and Expenditures, and Statistics of Schools for Refugees and Freedmen, 116-120.—List of Articles distributed to Refugees and Freedmen, 120-123.—Labors for Freedmen, 123-124.—Acknowledgment, 125.—Establishment of a Freedmen's Orphans' Home in St. Louis, 125-126.—Form of Indenture, 126-128.—Schools for Colored Children in St. Louis, 128-130.—Contribution for Freedmen from Joseph and Esther Sturge, of England, 130.—Freedmen's National Monument to Mr. Lincoln, the First Contribution, Successful Progress of the Movement, appointment of J. M. Langston as Collecting Agent, and the amount already in the hands of the Treasurer of the Commission for this purpose, 130-138.

CHAPTER V.

Total Distribution of Sanitary Stores, and List of articles distributed, 139-142.—Estimated Value, 142.—Cash Receipts and Expenditures, from May 9th, 1864, to December 31st, 1865, 143-144.—Objects for which a balance has been reserved, 144-145.—Total value of all the Receipts and Expenditures of the Commission, 145.—List of Contributors of the \$35,000 Donation from Boston in the winter of 1863, 145-149.—List of the Principal Cash Contributors of St. Louis to the Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair, 149-154.—Conclusion, 154-155.

FINAL REPORT

OF THE

Western Sanitary Commission,

[CONTINUED FROM THE PUBLISHED REPORT OF MAY, 1864.]

CHAPTER I.

PREVIOUS REPORTS OF THE COMMISSION—THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY SANITARY FAIR—
FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE FAIR—LETTER OF GENERAL GRANT—THE NAMES OF
THE COMMITTEES—ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE WESTERN SANITARY COMMISSION.

THE first reports of this Commission were made through the newspapers, being statements of its work in aid of the Government, during the first year of the war, in establishing hospitals at St. Louis, in furnishing them with sanitary stores, in sending supplies to the regiments in the field, and to the regimental and post hospitals at such military posts as were then established in Missouri, and wherever the Union armies had advanced; in furnishing hospital boats and procuring male and female nurses and additional surgeons to proceed to the first battle fields, to care for the sick and wounded, and bring them to places where they could be properly attended, and receive the treatment and provision for their comfort which patriotism and humanity alike required. These statements

were accompanied with earnest appeals to the loyal men and women in the free States to contribute sanitary articles, both of clothing and food, for our brave troops in the field and in hospitals, and with accounts of what had already been received and distributed.

In August, 1862, the Commission published its first pamphlet report, giving an account of its work, and its receipts and distributions to that date, and a description, with statistics, of the hospitals of St. Louis.

In June, 1863, it published a further report, in pamphlet form, of the work of the Commission, and of its receipts and distributions to that date, with additional statistics of the hospitals of St. Louis.

In December, 1863, it published a pamphlet report of the visit of its President to the Freedmen of the Mississippi Valley, and of the action recommended by him for their benefit, the organization of labor, and the leasing of the abandoned plantations.

In June, 1864, during the progress of the Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair, it published a history of its labors, both in pamphlet and in book form, from the beginning of the war to that date, the establishment of soldiers' homes, its charities to the refugees and freedmen, the multiplication of its agencies with the army, the continued demands upon it, and the reasons for the continuation of the work.

In November, 1864, it published a pamphlet report upon the condition of the loyal white refugees of the South, the sufferings endured by them, the charities which it had dispensed for their benefit in connection with the Government, and the aid that was still further needed in their behalf.

In the present publication it proposes to give a concluding report of its labors, commencing with an account of the Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair, and ending with the completion of its work as a Commission with the close of the year 1865.

In the concluding chapter of its report of May, 1864, some account is there given of the reasons which led the Commission, in January of that year, to take measures for the holding of a great Sanitary Fair, in St. Louis, the succeeding spring, by which it hoped to replenish its exhausted resources and continue its important work. The organization effected for the management of the enterprise, the erection of the Fair buildings, the generous contributions received, the successful opening of the Fair, and the encouraging prospect of its complete success, are there given. It remains, in this final report, to give the progress of the grand enterprise and its magnificent results, by which this Commission has been enabled to continue its work, even beyond the end of the war, for the benefit of the scarred veterans and heroes, who are not all yet mustered out of the service, and who are still returning through this city to their homes, and to report the continuance of its labors from that date to the end of the great service in which it has been engaged.

On the 17th of May, 1864, the immense building erected for the holding of the Fair, occupying the whole of Twelfth street from Olive to Saint Charles streets, with its wings on Locust street, filled with its splendid contributions of merchandise, art, and manufactures, ornamented with flags, trophies, and mottoes, with arbors of evergreens and flowers, and superintended by fair ladies and noble men, was opened to the public with appropriate inauguration ceremonies, and was immediately thronged with multitudes of interested visitors. For three weeks the influx of people from St. Louis and the neighboring country, and from the towns and cities of the adjoining States, was constant; and the building, in all its departments—its refreshment saloons, its gallery of fine arts, its counters for the sale of merchandise, its floral park, its room for trophies of the war, its exhibition of agricultural implements, of sewing machines, of works of art, and of the gold and silver bars from Nevada—was filled with multitudes, who

passed through the various walks and avenues, purchasing and admiring what they saw, from morning till evening, until the close of the Fair in the early part of June. It was a pleasant scene to witness the Fair in the evening, when the throng was usually the greatest, the whole building lighted with gas, the people passing in crowds through its various avenues, engaged in animated conversation, or making purchases from the well filled departments, a splendid band of musicians in an upper gallery filling the air with music, the walls covered with the names of the leading Generals of the Union armies, and of the battle fields on which they had achieved their renown; and the groups of salesmen and saleswomen, the first citizens in the community, and their wives and daughters, engaged in the business of traffic for so noble and praiseworthy an end. No written description can begin to do justice to the grand exhibition, but it will be long remembered by those who participated in its labors; by its committees, some of them coming away from Massachusetts to aid in the enterprise; and by the hundreds of thousands of visitors, who gave their presence, their sympathy and their money to aid the grand object for which the Fair was held. Among these were the loyal merchants and bankers of St. Louis, who were the main strength and support of the undertaking; the commanding General of the Department and other officers of the army, stationed at St. Louis, or co-operating from their distant posts; the members of the Western Sanitary Commission; the loyal ladies of St. Louis, including the members of the Ladies' Union Aid Society, the Freedmen's Aid Association, the Ladies' Loyal League, and the teachers and pupils of the Universities, the Colleges, the Female Academies and the Public Schools of the city, all of whom, in their several spheres, contributed to the grand results of the Fair.

The following report of the work accomplished, and of the pecuniary results of the Fair, was made by Major W. F. BRINCK,

Secretary *pro tem.*, and published, in connection with an acknowledgement of the Western Sanitary Commission, in the *Missouri Democrat*, and in pamphlet form, soon after the accounts of the enterprise were settled. These accounts were carefully kept, as far as they go, by the Corresponding Secretary of the Fair, Major ALFRED MACKEY; the Treasurer, SAMUEL COPP, Jr., and by the Secretaries and Treasurers of the various committees, from whose books the whole was made up, with great diligence and accuracy, by Major BRINCK. The account of the donations to the Fair was not included, and the difficulty of making up such an account at this late date, is explained further on.

It is due to the magnitude and importance of this work, that the financial report of Major BRINCK should have a place in this final report of the Western Sanitary Commission, and that the names of the workers who carried on the enterprise to a successful conclusion, should find a more permanent record in these pages. It is also due to those who contributed so generously, in goods and money, to the undertaking, that they should have the means of referring to it, and to the workers by whom it was carried forward, as a matter of congratulation to themselves and their children, of what was accomplished for the soldiers of the armies of the Union, by the Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE FAIR.

To Major General W. S. ROSECRANS,

President Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair :

In pursuance of the order of the Executive Committee, the following final report of the details and results of the Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair is respectfully submitted :

A meeting was held February 1, 1864, at which was inaugurated the preliminaries for the Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair, by a number

of patriotic and noble-hearted ladies and gentlemen, who recognized the imperative necessity of aiding, in a substantial manner, the herculean and self-imposed task of the Western Sanitary Commission, in their great labor of aiding our brave and noble soldiers, who have so gallantly sustained, upon many battle fields, the honor of our glorious stars and stripes.

The results of their generous labors are exhibited as follows:

The items show the receipts from the select committees and departments :

Proceeds of fourteen gold and silver bars received from Story county, Nevada Territory.....	\$44,725.88
Proceeds of one gold and silver bar, received from Ormsby county, Nevada Territory.....	716.65
Cash from Dry Goods Committee.....	19,548.50
Cash from Grocers' Committee.....	10,755.00
Cash from Marine Committee.....	13,100.00

RECEIPTS FROM THE GENERAL REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE.

Cash from the New England Kitchen.....	\$6,284.18
Cash from the Holland Kitchen.....	4,711.90
Cash from the Confectioners.....	1,345.80
Cash from Lippincott's Soda Fountain.....	627.20
Cash from O'Brien's Soda Fountain.....	150.00
Cash from Robinson's Cream Mead.....	22.50
Cash from the Cafe Laclede.....	8,226.68
Goods turned over to combination sale.....	313.50
Total.....	<u>\$21,681.70</u>

FROM COMMITTEE ON DRAMA AND PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Cash.....	\$6,102.78
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FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Cash.....	\$1,296.65
Entrance fee of pupils.....	530.80
Entertainment at Mercantile Library Hall.....	609.53
Sales at the Fair.....	2,873.90
Turned over to combination sale.....	297.99
Total.....	<u>\$5,608.87</u>

RECEIPTS FROM COMMITTEE ON CHARITABLE INTSITUTIONS.

Cash.....	\$7,033.75
Goods turned over to combination sale.....	1,039.95
Goods turned over to Western Sanitary Commission.....	1,600.00
Total.....	<u>\$9,673.70</u>

RECEIPTS FROM THE FLORAL DEPARTMENT.

Cash.....	\$7,144.80
Goods turned over to combination sale.....	901.00
One share Agricultural and Mechanical Association Stock..	50.00
Total.....	<u>\$8,095.80</u>

FROM BOOK AND STATIONERY COMMITTEE.

Cash from sales at the Fair.....	\$5,200.00
Goods turned over to combination sale.....	3,178.00
Goods turned over to Western Sanitary Commission.....	1,281.00
Total.....	<u>\$9,659.00</u>

FROM DRUG AND PERFUMERY COMMITTEE.

Cash from sales at the Fair.....	\$3,097.90
Cash contributions.....	3,036.00
Goods delivered to combination sale....	1,265.92
Total.....	<u>\$7,3989 2</u>

Cash from Millers' Committee.....	4,595.75
Cash from Iron and Steel Committee.....	8,293.44

FROM CARRIAGE, SADDLERY AND HARNESS COMMITTEE.

Cash.....	\$4,547.55
Carriage turned over to Smizer Farm Committee.....	600.00
Whips turned over to combination sale.....	42.00
Total.....	<u>\$5,189.55</u>

FROM WINE AND BEER COMMITTEE.

Cash.....	\$3,203.35
Goods turned over to Sanitary Commission.....	2,192.50
Total.....	<u>\$5,395.85</u>

FROM HEBREW SANITARY AID SOCIETY.

Cash.....	<u>\$3,085.45</u>
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FROM SOAP, CANDLE AND LARD OIL COMMITTEE.

Cash.....	<u>\$2,155.85</u>
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FROM STOVES, TINWARE AND GAS FITTING COMMITTEE.

Cash, gas fitting and goods turned over to Sanitary Com..	<u>\$7,867.64</u>
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FROM CHINA AND GLASSWARE COMMITTEE.

Cash.....	<u>\$2,394.40</u>
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FROM FREEDMEN'S AND REFUGEES' COMMITTEE—DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Donations to Freedmen.....	\$6,115.36
Donations to Freedmen and Refugees.....	7,254.70
Donations to Refugees.....	3,020.05
Books turned over to Sanitary Commission.....	330.00
Total.....	<u>\$16,720.11</u>

FROM COMMITTEE ON FINE ARTS.

Cash	\$7,919.60
Goods turned over to Western Sanitary Commission.....	985.00
Goods turned over to Smizer Farm Committee.....	5,600.00
Goods sent to Quiney Fair.....	80.00
Goods turned over to combination sale.....	1,358.50
Total.....	<u>\$15,943.10</u>

From Ladies' Furnishing Committee.....	<u>2,417.50</u>
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FROM HARDWARE AND HOUSE FURNISHING COMMITTEE.

Cash.....	\$6,641.95
Goods turned over to combination sale.....	563.79
Total....	<u>\$7,205.74</u>
From Skating Park Committee.....	888.40
From New Bedford Department.....	4,615.21

[We cannot refrain from adding a word, in addition to the bare report of the receipts from this department. Here we have an evidence of the cordial sympathy, existing even in the far-distant city of New Bedford, for us and our most holy cause. The loyal and noble-hearted citizens of that city have most cordially responded to our appeal for contributions. While they are far removed from the presence of war, they are with us in earnest sympathy and noble-hearted generosity, in every effort to relieve war of a portion of its horrors, and alleviate the miseries of our gallant soldiers. May God bless them for their valuable, timely and most welcome assistance.]

Our thanks are particularly due to Mr. and Mrs. T. PRENTISS ALLEN and Mrs. HATHAWAY, whose kind labors will long be remembered.]

RECEIPTS FROM MILLINERY COMMITTEE.

Cash.....	\$668.45
Goods turned over to combination sale.....	269.75
Total.....	<u>\$938.20</u>

FROM CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT.

Cash, including Fishing Pond.....	\$4,671.30
Goods sent to Quincy Sanitary Fair.....	622.75
Goods turned over to combination sale.....	291.55
Total.....	<u>\$5,585.60</u>

FROM AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE.

Cash.....	<u>\$3,603.65</u>
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Receipts from Bed Linen Committee.....	\$2,396.05
Receipts from Turnverein Committee.....	408.05
Receipts from Premium Shirt Committee....	868.00
Receipts from Sewing Machine Committee.....	1,242.00

JEWELRY AND SILVER PLATE COMMITTEE.

Receipts from Jewelry and Silver Plate Committee, from sales, cash.....	5,136.10
Turned over to combination sale.....	439.50
Total.....	\$5,575.60

FROM OLD CURIOSITY SHOP AND ARMS AND TROPHIES.

Cash.....	\$3,514.60
Turned over to combination sale.....	1,051.70
Total.....	\$4,566.30

Cash from Bakers' Committee.....	3,415.25
Cash from Produce Committee.....	7,329.49

FANCY HAND-WORK COMMITTEE.

Cash.....	\$4,343.95
Turned over to combination sale.....	328.00
Total.....	\$4,671.95

From Live Stock Committee, cash.....	\$3,260.85
Turned over to Smizer Farm Committee.....	2,500.00
Turned over to combination sale.....	466.00
Total.....	\$6,226.85

Paint and Oil Committee, cash	\$3,684.90
New York Department, cash.....	2,937.05
Goods turned over to combination sale.....	4,831.75
Total.....	\$7,768.80

Committee on Swords, cash.....	\$4,511.00
Turned over to combination sale.....	114.00
Total.....	<u>\$4,625.00</u>

From Associated Clerks, cash..... \$3,958.92

From Private School Committee, cash.....	6,012.65
Goods turned over to combination sale.....	393.00
Total.....	<u>\$6,405.65</u>

Cash from Boot and Shoe Committee.....	\$9,485.83
Goods turned over to Sanitary Commission.....	2,422.10
Total.....	<u>\$11,907.93</u>

Cash from sale of Tickets.....	\$39,884.95
Cash from "Daily Countersign".....	3,136.18
Cash from Manufacturers' Committee.....	6,915.00
Cash from Post Office at the Fair.....	307.95
Cash from Furniture Committee.....	4,119.10
Cash from Government Employees.....	12,856.95

CLOTHING AND FURNISHING COMMITTEE.

Cash from Cloth, Clothing and Furnishing Committee....	5,933.40
Goods turned over to combination sale....	520.50
Total.....	<u>\$6,453.90</u>

Cash from Wood and Coal Committee..... 882.25

Receipts from Tobacco and Cigars Committee, cash.....	7,212.20
One horse turned over to the Smizer Farm Committee....	1,000.00
Total.....	<u>\$8,212.20</u>

Cash received through the Central Finance Committee, including the proceeds from the Smizer Farm and grand closing combination sale, and of the sale of tickets, amounts to about \$315,000. This sum is not carried out as receipts, from the fact that the amount has been credited under separate heads.

The duties of this Committee have been so varied and arduous that a mere mention of the amount of moneys that have passed through their Treasurer's hands scarce does them justice. For this reason we are induced to copy the following resolution, passed by the Executive Committee, on motion of Mr. CHAPMAN :

Resolved, That the Executive Committee fully appreciate the arduous duties that have devolved upon the Central Finance Committee, and that they have discharged their duties with great ability, for which this Committee extends its warmest thanks.

Total amount of cash received through the Smizer Farm Committee, the grand closing combination sale, the several select committees, and from miscellaneous cash donations, including the silver bars from Nevada Territory..\$605,505.20

EXPENSE ACCOUNT.

Cost of building.....	\$20,434.60
Refreshment departments.....	10,158.77
Traveling agents.....	521.50
Sprinkling streets.....	200.00
Ribbon for and gilding horse shoes.....	284.00
Amount paid on donated goods.....	150.00
Music.....	2,113.33
Gas.....	1,026.55
Decorating.....	2,366.28
Labor at Fair building.....	620.95
L. Dolman, on account of moving hay scales.....	166.30
Expenses incurred by Finance Committee.....	1,576.24
Incidental repairs of Fair building.....	103.00
United States flags lost and damaged.....	681.00
Expenses attending opening ceremonies.....	107.00
Postage account.....	1,119.25
Freight, being charges advanced to Eastern roads.....	276.09
Sawdust.....	140.40
Advertising and printing.....	8,137.90
Expense of selling tickets.....	480.00
Expense of storekeeper.....	798.10
Insurance.....	66.00
Expense incurred by returning goods sent on exhibition.....	173.00
Expenses incurred by Ladies' Executive Committee.....	2,102.38
Captain Dean, of New York.....	250.00
Charges on silver bars from Nevada Territory.....	764.00
Expenses incurred by Floral Department.....	1,751.49

Expenses incurred by Art Gallery Committee.....	655.80
Expenses incurred by Smizer Farm Committee.....	1,073.35
Expenses incurred by closing combination sale.....	717.95
Expenses incurred by Live Stock Committee.....	421.30
Expenses incurred by sundry select committees.....	492.00
Contingent expenses, to-wit :	
Salary of Secretary, Storekeeper, Clerks, and for stationery..	4,162.70
Total.....	<u>\$64,191.28</u>

RECAPITULATION.

Cash.....	\$605,505.20
Goods sent to Quincy Fair.....	702.75
Donation of labor and material to the Directing Secretary..	2,623.23
Goods turned over to the Western Sanitary Commission by the Storekeeper.....	\$1,140.50
Goods turned over to the Western Sanitary Com- mission by Committees.....	8,810.60
To Commission—total.....	<u>9,951.10</u>
Total receipts.....	<u>\$618,782.28</u>
Total expenses.....	<u>64,191.28</u>
Total.....	<u><u>\$554,591.00</u></u>

MR. PRESIDENT : In closing this Report, we feel justified, from the great success of our Fair, to claim for it larger comparative receipts than that of any Sanitary Fair that has been held in the United States. * For example, the city of St. Louis, situated comparatively upon the frontier of loyalty, has raised about \$3.50 for each inhabitant, while the cities of New York and Philadelphia, at their Fairs, raised about \$1.67 for each inhabitant. This fact should induce the loyal ladies and gentlemen who inaugurated and consummated this noble and philanthropic enterprise, to feel an honest pride in their labors, and to nerve themselves for future efforts in the good cause of assisting our gallant soldiers, and sustaining our National Government in this hour of trial.

All of which is submitted, with our congratulations for the successful termination of our labors.

JAMES E. YEATMAN,

Chairman Executive Committee.

W. F. BRINCK,

Corresponding Secretary pro tem.

In connection with the foregoing statement it would be interesting to give an account of the donations to the Fair, in money and goods, from which these receipts were derived, the names of the contributors and of the communities and parts of the country contributing, but the absence of the Corresponding Secretary of the Fair, Major MACKAY, who resigned his position before the exhibition and sales were concluded, and removed elsewhere, the unfinished condition of the books and records, and the different hands in which they were kept and still remain—some of them not accessible to the writer of this report—place it out of his power to give the full and accurate account of these donations and their sources, which would be necessary, if any detailed account at all were attempted. Besides this, it would greatly increase its extent and volume to give these particulars, and the best that is possible under the circumstances is to refer to the receipts of the Fair as bearing an accurate proportion to the contributions received, the kinds of merchandise and other articles, for the care and sale of which committees were formed, indicating the character of that class of donations, and the total contributions in money, being indicated by the cash receipts of the Fair, after deducting the amount received from the sale of tickets of admission, both at the entrance and to the art gallery and curiosity shop, and the proceeds of the several refreshment saloons—(Cafe Laclede, Holland and New England Kitchens,) the Skating Park, Lemonade and Soda Fountains, Stereopticon, “Daily Countersign,” the Drama, Amusements, School Exhibitions, Post Office, and some other similar sources of profit, easily separated from the contributions of goods and money by consulting Major BRINCK’S report.

It may, however, be stated in general terms, that citizens of Boston, New Bedford, Providence, Salem, Worcester, New York, Brooklyn, Philadelphia and Saint Louis, besides many smaller cities and towns, were munificent in gifts, and that many valuable

trophies of the war and donations in money were received from the army. Fifteen gold and silver bars, amounting to over \$45,000, were received from Nevada Territory, and several shipments of goods were sent also from England and Germany by generous sympathisers in our cause. The generosity of our people, in their earnest support of the armies of the Union, during the recent struggle for national existence, their sympathy and aid in sanitary and religious work for the sick and wounded soldiers, and their noble charities for the freedmen and homeless Union refugees, are without a parallel in history. Besides these liberal contributions to the Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair, the Western Sanitary Commission had been the recipient of hundreds of thousands of dollars, in money and sanitary goods, from the same patriotic sources, during the whole progress of the war, and the confidence of the communities, who have thus nobly sustained and supported its efforts, in the disinterested integrity and fidelity with which it claims to have fulfilled the trusts committed to its charge, will doubtless be fully satisfied with the account rendered of its stewardship, in the various published reports it has made from time to time, down to its present concluding and final report.

The statement given of the pecuniary results of the Fair conveys but a feeble impression of the activity and industry, that for more than three weeks of the exhibition and sale, and for many previous weeks, characterized all the committees engaged in it. The names of the various committees, and of the individuals who served so earnestly and devotedly in their several departments, will be found embodied further on, in this chapter.

It may be stated, as an interesting feature of the grand exhibition, and as a mark of the change of public sentiment, that colored soldiers from the regiments stationed at Benton Barracks performed guard and fatigue duties in and around the Fair buildings ; generous donations in money were made by several regiments

of colored troops in aid of the refugees' and freedmen's department, and many colored people visited the Fair and made purchases of goods ; and, although one or two manifestations of the old prejudice occurred on the part of individuals, the prevailing sentiment was liberal, humane and tolerant towards this hitherto proscribed race. The freedmen and refugees' department was well supplied with donations. The committee in charge of it was composed of ladies and gentlemen of the highest standing in the community, and their work was accomplished in the most satisfactory manner.

It is proper to mention, also, that the Fair received, at its inauguration and commencement, the favorable influence of Lieut. General GRANT, who was present in St. Louis at that time, and in response to an invitation to be present at a public meeting, sent the following reply, heartily endorsing the labors of the Western Sanitary Commission, and approving of the objects for which the Fair was held :

“ST. LOUIS, MO., *January* 31, 1864.

“DR. W. G. ELIOT, GEORGE PARTRIDGE AND OTHERS,

“*Western Sanitary Commission :*

“GENTLEMEN : Your letter of yesterday, requesting my presence at a general meeting of the loyal citizens of St. Louis, on Monday evening, to make arrangements for a “Grand Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair,” for the benefit of the sick and wounded of the Western armies, is before me. I regret that my already protracted stay in this city will prevent any longer delay from my public duties, as it would afford me the greatest pleasure to advance, in any manner, the interests of a commission, that has already done so much for the suffering soldiers of our armies in the West. The gratuitous offerings of our loyal citizens, at home, to our brave soldiers in the field, through the agency of Sanitary Commissions, have been to them the most encouraging and gratifying evidence that

whilst they are risking life and health for the suppression of this most wicked rebellion, friends, who cannot assist with musket and sword, are with them in sympathy and heart.

“The Western Sanitary Commission has distributed tons of stores (amounting to thousands) to the armies under my command. Its voluntary offerings have made glad the hearts of many thousands of wounded and sick soldiers, who otherwise would have been subjected to severe privations. Knowing the benefits already conferred on the army by the Western Sanitary Commission, I hope for a full and enthusiastic meeting to-morrow night, and a “Fair” to follow, which will bring together many old friends who have been kept apart for the last three years, and unite them again in one common cause—that of their country and peace.

“I am, gentlemen,

“With great respect,

“Your obedient servant,

“U. S. GRANT,

“*Major General United States Army.*”

The best description of the Fair that remains may be seen by those who have the numbers of the *Countersign*, a daily paper published and sold at one of the counters, within the building, each day and evening of the grand exhibition. This literary product of the Fair was edited by Miss ANNA C. BRACKETT, assisted by Mrs. E. W. CLARK and Mrs. S. A. RANLETT, as managers, and was filled with articles of interest, mostly original contributions from the editor and her friends, with notices of the different departments of the Fair, and of the events transpiring in connection with it, and with advertisements of the goods on sale. It was conducted with spirit; its articles were animated, sprightly and well written, and it was also a pecuniary success, and made a handsome addition to the general receipts of the Fair.

The following list of persons comprises the officers, managers, committees and principal workers of the Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair, who initiated, planned and carried forward to a successful termination this noble enterprise of patriotism and benevolence, from its inauguration to its close :

OFFICERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY SANITARY FAIR.

Major General W. S. ROSECRANS, President.
 Governor WILLARD P. HALL, First Vice President.
 Ex-Mayor CHAUNCEY I. FILLEY, Second Vice President.
 Brigadier General CLINTON B. FISK, Third Vice President.
 Mayor JAMES S. THOMAS, Fourth Vice President.
 Brigadier General J. W. DAVIDSON, Fifth Vice President.
 SAMUEL COPP, Jr., Treasurer.
 Major ALFRED MACKEY, Corresponding Secretary.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

His Excellency, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States.
 Hon. HANNIBAL HAMLIN, Vice President of the United States.
 The Honorable, the Governors of the several loyal States.
 Lieutenant General U. S. GRANT, commanding, &c.

STANDING COMMITTEE—(MEMBERS WESTERN SANITARY COMMISSION.)

James E. Yeatman,	George Partridge,
Wm. G. Eliot,	Carlos S. Greeley,
	John B. Johnson.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

James E. Yeatman, Chairman,	William Mitchell,
J. H. Lightner,	William Adriance,
E. W. Fox,	George E. Leighton,
Samuel Copp, Jr.,	M. L. Linton,
George D. Hall,	William H. Benton,

S. R. Filley,
Charles B. Hubbell, Jr.,
James Blackman,
William D'Ench,
William Patrick,
J. O. Pierce,
Gustavus W. Dreyer,
H. A. Homeyer,
D. R. Bonner,
Adolphus Meier,
Charles Speck,

Dwight Durkee,
Amadee Valle,
Wylls King,
George P. Plant,
Morris Collins,
J. C. Cabot,
N. C. Chapman,
John D. Perry,
S. H. Laffin,
James Ward.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF LADIES.

Mrs. Chauncey I. Filley, President, Mrs. V. P. Van Antwerp, Cor. Sec'y,
Miss Anna M. Debenham, Rec. Sec'y, Miss Phæbe W. Couzins, Cor. Sec'y,
Mrs. Samuel Copp, Jr., Treasurer.

Mrs. Robert Anderson,
 " George Partridge,
 " J. E. D. Couzins,
 " E. M. Weber,
 " Truman Woodruff,
 " Clinton B. Fisk,
 " F. A. Dick,
 " Alfred Clapp,
 " Dr. E. Hale,
 " A. S. W. Goodwin,
 " H. T. Blow,
 " Amelia Reihl,
 " N. C. Chapman,
 " Washington King,
 " S. A. Ranlett,
 " T. B. Edgar,
 " C. S. Greeley,
 " W. T. Hazard,
 " Charles D. Drake,
 " William McKee,
 " Samuel C. Davis,
 " Gen. W. S. Rosecrans,

Mrs. Charles Eggers,
 " Dr. O'Reilly,
 " S. B. Kellogg,
 " A. S. Dean,
 " Rombauer,
 " Dr. Haeussler,
 " Adolphus Abeles,
 " F. P. Blair,
 " Elizabeth W. Clarke,
 " H. Dreyer,
 " John Wolff,
 " Ulrich Busch,
 " John J. Hoppe,
 " William D'Ench,
 " Adolphus Meier,
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H. R. Whitmore,
J. S. Waters,
Miss S. Benton,

Miss M. Treat,
" E. Tittman,
" H. E. Wells.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

Edward Wyman,
L. L. Bonham,
C. S. Pennell,
Wm. Chauvenet,
R. L. Tafel,
W. C. Wilcox,
P. Fales,

M. Plate,
Mrs. E. W. Clark,
Miss M. J. Cragin,
" A. S. W. S. Bailey,
" M. E. Brooks,
Mrs. L. Boggis,
Miss C. A. Little.

POLICE.

William Patrick,
John Brigham,
Hon. John How,

* Mayor J. S. Thomas,
Major Cozzens.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Charles Balmer,
G. W. Parker,
F. Ringling,
Judge J. M. Krum,
Judge Lord,
Mr. Folsom,
Mr. Charles Taussig,

Mrs. Judge Lord,
" Ringling,
" Dick,
" Lowe,
" Cheever,
Miss Dean.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Horace H. Morgan,
Ira Divoll,
James A. Martling,
Carlos W. Mills,
Wm. T. Harris,
Mrs. C. S. Greeley,
" A. L. Harrington,

Miss Hannah B. Stark,
" Kate Wilson,
" Lizzie J. Rountree,
" Lizzie S. Childs,
" Sarah A. Clark,
" Anna C. Brackett.

REFRESHMENT DEPARTMENT,

*Embracing Cafe Laclede, Holland Kitchen, New England Kitchen, Confectionery,
Lippincott's Soda Fountain, O'Brien's Soda Fountain and Robinson's Cream
Mead Fountain.*

CAFE LACLEDE.

Mr. Josiah Fogg,
" Wm. A. Doan,
" H. M. Thompson,
" David Nicholson,

Miss Bell,
Mrs. Coleman,
" Collins,
" C. C. Drake,

Mr. A. S. Merritt,
 " Mellville Sawyer,
 " J. H. Andrews,
 " C. R. Anderson,
 " Philip Krieger,
 " Robert Charles,
 " Hugh Menown,
 " C. B. Lake,
 " E. S. Lippincott,
 " John O'Brien,
 " J. Keane,
 Mrs. Alfred Clapp,
 " Wm. A. Doan,
 Miss H. A. Adams,
 Mrs. Robert Eagle,
 " S. B. Kellogg,
 " J. Hodgeman,
 " Van Naye,
 " R. Dougherty,
 " Vogel,
 " Hobbs,
 " Geo. K. Budd,
 " S. Ridgley,
 " G. W. Hathaway,
 " Otis West,
 " S. Wells,
 " Wm. Patrick,
 " Wm. Clark,
 " J. N. Davis,
 " M. Bramble,
 " A. F. Shapleigh,
 " R. Scarritt,

Mrs. S. L. Pinneo,
 " J. A. Smithers,
 " Shidy,
 " Charles H. Peck,
 " Ullery,
 Miss Young,
 " Hope,
 Mrs. Giles,
 " Shaw,
 Miss Belle Graham,
 Mrs. Bryson,
 " Miller,
 " Col. Fletcher,
 " McLean,
 " Hicks,
 " Wm. McKee,
 " O. D. Filley,
 " Dr. O'Reilly,
 " J. E. D. Couzens,
 " Crandall,
 " J. Anderson,
 " R. S. Hart,
 " W. T. Cozzens,
 " Stanard,
 Miss Sue Beeson,
 Mrs. Dr. Houts,
 " John Campbell,
 " Chas. Ely,
 " McElwain,
 " Palmer,
 " James Patrick,
 " Treadway.

HOLLAND KITCHENN.

G. W. Dreyer,
 John Lody,
 Gustavus Hoeber,
 Mrs. Bertha Rombauer,
 " G. W. Dreyer,

Mrs. Dr. F. Hausler,
 " A. Abeles,
 " John Worf,
 " Wm. D'Ench,
 " John Hoppe.

NEW ENGLAND KITCHEN.

S. T. Hatch,
 George B. Kellogg,
 Chas. Whorf,
 J. S. Williams,
 Henry Blood,
 E. Hosford, Chicago, Ills.,

Mrs. Haywood and daughter,
 " Bradley,
 " Skinkle,
 " Parker,
 " Hide,
 " J. S. Williams,

Mr. Pratt,	Mrs. F. S. Williams,
“ May,	“ Wallace,
“ Fassett,	Miss Wallace,
“ S. G. George,	Mrs. Roberts,
“ B. Gannett,	“ Chapman,
“ H. Gibson,	“ Whedon,
“ Currier,	“ Sweet,
“ A. Strong,	“ Cooper,
“ Benson,	“ Blood,
“ Wheeler,	“ I. T. Green,
“ J. Libby,	Miss Barnhurst,
Mrs. G. A. Gannett,	Mrs. Thomson,
“ S. Rich and daughter,	“ Rainer,
“ Coolidge,	“ Hall,
“ S. Bonner and sister,	“ Welock,
“ C. R. George,	“ Mathews,
“ Catlin,	“ Dean,
“ Currier and sons,	“ R. D. Foster,
“ G. F. Tower,	“ Pennington,
“ R. E. Tower,	“ Greenwood,
“ White,	“ Finney,
“ L. B. Clark,	“ Keith,
“ J. Libby,	Miss P. Barnhurst,
“ W. M. Brook,	“ Tower,
“ M. E. Cummins,	“ Abbe Tower,
“ H. B. Manford,	“ Betts,
“ Howard,	Mrs. McElvaine,
“ Pearce,	Miss Billings,
“ Morgan, (B. T. C.)	Mrs. Roberts.

PERSONS IN COSTUMES.

Grandpa and Grandma Brown.	Abigail, } Penelope Ann, Country
Housekeeper.	Huldah, } Cousin.
Aunt Debby.	Jerushy.
Aunt Debby Makepeace.	Miss Dorcas.
Aunt Ruth and Tabatha, Quakeresses.	Country School Marm.
Aunt Mahitable, Mrs. Dr. Emerson.	Fisherman Zekiel, the Deacon, Doctor.
New England Blue Stocking.	County School Teacher, the Farmer.
Mrs. Deacon Twitchele.	Yankee Pedlar, Brother Jonathan.
Miss Prissy, the Village Dressmaker.	The Blacksmith.
Coz. Dorethy.	Two Yankees from Way Down East.

CONFECTIONERY.

A. H. Blanke,	Miss Helen Osborne,
F. Walter,	“ Clara Leigh,
W. Stacy,	“ Kate Ober,
Mrs. J. G. Waters,	“ Lottie Rogers,

Mrs. F. H. Fletcher,	Miss Mille Tirrell,
“ Carrie Hobbs,	“ Meredith,
“ Dr. Fellerer,	“ Taussig,
“ Mary Ryan,	“ Minnie Shields,
Miss Anna L. Clapp,	“ Fannie Glover.

SEWING MACHINES.

Mrs. N. C. Chapman, Chairman,	J. S. Short, agent Wilcox & Gibbs'
“ Geo. K. Budd,	Sewing Machine Company,
“ Dr. E. Hale,	L. Broad, agent Aiken's Knitting Ma-
“ Joseph Crawshaw,	chine,
“ Col. Benteen,	Barton Able,
“ W. B. Garrett,	Geo. A. Magwire,
“ Barton Able.	Miss Mary Thomas,
“ Josiah Anderson,	“ Mary Magwire,
R. Wheeler, agent Grover & Baker	“ Bessie Whittaker,
Sewing Machine Company,	“ Kitty Whittaker,
A. Summer, agent Wheeler & Wilson	“ Mary B. Treat,
Sewing Machine Company,	“ Eliza Stoddard,
— Dean, agent Singer's Sewing Ma-	“ Florence Chapman,
chine Company,	George Cutter,
J. Gilbert Chapman.	

SHIRTS.

Mrs. T. C. Davis,	Mrs. Fride,
Miss Phœbe Couzins,	“ Dr. Haeussler,
Mrs. M. E. Dimmick,	Miss C. Ledergarber,
“ J. E. D. Couzins,	“ Sallie Morrison,
“ John How,	Mrs. M. E. Dimmick,
“ H. T. Darrah,	“ Geo. W. Curtis,
“ Dr. McMurray,	“ Fletcher,
“ Wm. Pond,	Miss V. Hinton,
“ M. Moody,	Mrs. Michel,
“ Chapman,	Miss Anna Horn,
“ Z. F. Wetzel,	“ Lizzie Haeussler.

SKATING PARK.

Miss Jennie B. Glover,	George W. Ware.
Lyman O. Dana,	

STOVES, TINWARE, RANGES, GAS FITTINGS, ETC.

John H. Lightner,	A. K. Farrett,
G. F. Filley,	Charles F. Whorf,
John H. Beach,	Charles Cajacob,
James Beakey,	Andrew Geisel,
Dwight Turner,	J. Crawshaw, Jr.,
Wm. H. Couzzins,	Benjamin Horton.
Fred. G. Neidringhaus,	

SOAP, CANDLES AND OIL.

A. S. W. Goodwin,	Frank Goodwin,
Miss Anna Burke,	Miss Minnie Vanzant,
“ Sarah Burke,	“ Kate Brady.

SWORDS.

Henry Folsom,	S. B. Shaw.
David Folsom,	

TOBACCO AND CIGARS.

J. W. Booth,	W. J. Lewis,
D. Catlin,	C. C. Mengel,
S. Peltz,	M. S. Mephram.

TURNVEREIN.

Hugo Grimm,	John Paul,
Max A. Krug,	Gust Schurtz.

WINES, ETC.

Julius Herter, Chairman.
 [Balance of the Committee not reported.]

WHITE LEAD, OIL, ETC.

G. W. Banker, Chairman.
 [Balance of the Committee not reported.]

Appended to the report of the Fair, the following acknowledgment of the Western Sanitary Commission was given, and will form a fitting conclusion of this Chapter :

“The full report of the Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair having now been made, the Western Sanitary Commission avails itself of the opportunity, in behalf of the sick and wounded, to thank all those whose generosity and labors have contributed to the remarkable result. When it was first proposed that such a Fair should be held, the suggestion seemed almost unreasonable. Our city had already contributed beyond its proportion in the prosecution of the war, and in the support of its charities. It had scarcely recovered from that unexampled prostration of business which threatened, in the first two years of the strife, to blight all its prospects. Fears were also expressed that the disloyal element in the city would

be strong enough to prevent any considerable success, and the prediction was confidently made that the expenses of a Fair would be more than the receipts.

“On the other side, the urgent necessities of the sick and wounded, in the hospital and on the battle field, made an irresistible appeal, and long experience had taught that the people of St. Louis are never tired of giving while they have anything left. We felt sure that an appeal to their loyalty and humanity would not be made in vain, and that, with proper exertions, a hundred thousand dollars might be obtained. Under all the circumstances, such a result would have been considered a decided success.

“What shall we say, then, when this magnificent sum of six hundred and eighteen thousand, seven hundred and eighty-two dollars is reported, placing at our disposal, after payment of all expenses, five hundred and fifty-four thousand, five hundred and ninety-one dollars, which will probably be swelled to five hundred and seventy thousand by subsequent receipts? We confidently believe that no equal demonstration of patriotism has been made in any city of the Union since the war began.

“To the wise management and indefatigable zeal of the officers, and of the executive and special committees, including in all not less than three thousand ladies and gentlemen, the credit is largely due, and they have reaped the reward of seeing the work prosper in their hands. Generous contributions were received from our sister cities, in almost every loyal State, of which report has been duly made, and for which our most cordial thanks are returned. But to the citizens of St. Louis itself, and the people of Missouri, including the military and the local government employees, must the unparalleled success of the Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair be mainly attributed.

“When a whole community have been at work, and all have done their part so well, it is impossible to discriminate in our

expressions of gratitude. We shall endeavor to prove, by the judicious expenditure of the funds intrusted to our care, that the generous confidence of our fellow citizens has not been misplaced. Almost every dollar received will be expended for the direct relief of suffering. To General SHERMAN's army alone, more than eighty thousand dollars worth of choice hospital stores have been sent, in the months of June and July, and an equal proportion to troops in other departments.

"Our agents are carefully selected, and all distributions are directed so as to avoid waste or abuse. The funds received will be made to go as far and do as much good as possible, which is the best method of thanking the donors.

"The Ladies' Union Aid Society is kindly assisting us in our work, with the discriminating zeal which characterizes all its actions, and the Freedmen's Relief Society of this city is rendering important aid, in that department of our labors.

"In conclusion, we may be permitted to add that too much praise cannot be awarded to the officers and members of the city police, who spared neither time nor labor in the preservation of good order, during the whole continuance of the Fair. Our thanks are due to them individually, and as representatives of the municipal authorities.

"With earnest prayers that the Divine blessing may rest upon all who devote themselves to the defence of our beloved country, and upon those who are striving to lessen and alleviate the sufferings of war, we subscribe ourselves,

"Most respectfully,

J. E. YEATMAN,
J. B. JOHNSON,
C. S. GREELEY,
GEO. PARTRIDGE,
W. G. ELIOT.

"ST. LOUIS, *August 16, 1864.*"

CHAPTER II.

THE COMMISSION SUPPLIED WITH FUNDS FROM THE PROCEEDS OF THE FAIR—THE CONTINUATION OF ITS WORK—SUPPLIES SENT TO THE ARMY OF GENERAL SHERMAN—ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, AND VIEWS OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL—APPROPRIATIONS TO THE LADIES' UNION AID SOCIETY, LADIES' FREEDMEN RELIEF ASSOCIATION, AND WAR RELIEF COMMITTEE OF ST. LOUIS—THE SMIZER FARM GIFT BY THE COUNTY COURT OF ST. LOUIS—ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME AT WEBSTER, IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY—SUPPLIES SENT TO UNION PRISONERS AT ANDERSONVILLE, GA.—CORRESPONDENCE WITH GENERAL SHERMAN—SUPPLIES SENT TO HOSPITALS AND REGIMENTS AT MEMPHIS, VICKSBURG, HELENA, DUVAL'S BLUFF, LITTLE ROCK, ST. LOUIS, ETC., FROM MAY TO DECEMBER, 1864—INVASION OF MISSOURI BY GENERAL STERLING PRICE—DEMANDS ON THE COMMISSION FOR CLOTHING AND HOSPITAL SUPPLIES FOR THE UNION TROOPS—THE INFLUX OF REFUGEES AT ST. LOUIS—THEIR NECESSITIES—WORK FOR THEM AT ST. LOUIS AND OTHER POINTS—VISITS OF MR. YEATMAN TO FIELDS OF OPERATION IN THE VALLEY OF THE MISSISSIPPI—TROOPS SENT TO THE TERRITORIES TO QUELL THE INDIANS—LARGE DEMANDS MADE FOR SANITARY SUPPLIES, ESPECIALLY OF VEGETABLES AND ANTI-SCORBUTICS—GENEROUS SHIPMENTS FORWARDED TO THE PLAINS—COLORED SOLDIERS SUPPLIED—ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—WOMEN NURSES IN THE HOSPITALS—MR. YEATMAN'S PLAN OF A PROTESTANT SISTERHOOD OF CHARITY—ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DONATIONS.

THE net proceeds of the Sanitary Fair, amounting to over five hundred and fifty thousand dollars, were paid over to the Treasurer of the Commission, C. S. GREELEY, Esq., for its uses in the sanitary work of the army, the furnishing of supplementary supplies to the hospitals and to the troops, then penetrating the enemy's country, in Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas, and suffering for the want of many articles of comfort, not included in the army rations, and which only the Sanitary Commission, by its agents and its facilities of transportation, could supply. This handsome sum, a portion of which was also intended for the relief or suffering among the Union refugees and freedmen, and for aid to soldiers' widows and orphans, came to the Commission at a time of real necessity, when its funds were well nigh exhausted, and the demands upon it were as pressing and constant as at any former

period of the war. It was also intended that a liberal portion of it should be shared with the Ladies' Union Aid Society, and Freedmen's Relief Association, its fellow-laborers in the same field of humane work, both for the army and the other charities of the war, they having also shared largely in the work of the Sanitary Fair. That the funds thus entrusted to it might be judiciously expended for the foregoing objects, the portion of it not needed for immediate use was placed at interest, by the Treasurer, upon good and sufficient securities, subject to the call of the Commission, when needed, and it was arranged that the whole amount should be used in such a manner as to carry on its operations for another year, or to the probable conclusion of the war.

At the very time the Fair was being held, and during the summer and autumn of 1864, the armies of the Western Division, under General W. T. SHERMAN, were progressing towards the very heart of the enemy's country. Dalton, Tunnel Hill and Atlanta, were captured, the great march to the sea accomplished, and Savannah taken by our brave Western troops. From the taking of Chattanooga the Commission had kept agents at Nashville, Tenn., and Huntsville, Ala., and had forwarded many supplies to the front. As General SHERMAN went forward on his grand march through Dalton and Tunnel Hill, towards Atlanta, the demand for supplies increased, and large amounts of sanitary stores were forwarded. The following list of articles sent to General SHERMAN's army will give some idea of the work of the Commission at this period, and of the kind of aid and comfort given to our noble troops in the field by their friends at home, for whom they were fighting the battles of civilization and liberty.

ISSUES OF WESTERN SANITARY COMMISSION TO GENERAL SHERMAN'S
ARMY, FROM MAY 1, 1864, TO NOVEMBER 1, 1864.

- 33,814 cans assorted fruit and tomatoes.
- 19,259 cans condensed milk and sugar of lemons.
- 21,165 cans oysters, chickens and other meats and soups.
- 32,313 bottles blackberry cordial, wines, ales and stimulants.
- 780 bottles essences and flavoring extracts.
- 7,710 bottles fruit sauces and jellies.
- 16,550 gallons pickles.
- 37,225 pounds crackers.
- 33,880 pounds sauer kraut.
- 23,607 pounds assorted dried fruit.
- 10,981 pounds extract of beef and dried beef.
- 20,859 pounds codfish and mackerel.
- 3,515 pounds butter and cheese.
- 8,471 pounds farina, corn starch, arrowroot, &c.
- 4,190 pounds toast or zwiebeck.
- 2,555 pounds spices.
- 1,781 pounds sugar, tea, cocoa, broma, &c.
- 15,777 barrels potatoes.
- 1,775 barrels onions.
- 2,570 dozens eggs.
- 22,579 shirts and drawers.
- 10,300 pairs socks.
- 535 pairs shoes and slippers.

ARTICLES OF CLOTHING.

- 350 yards material dress goods, domestics, &c.
- 14,734 dozens buttons, thread and papers needles.
- 4,368 combs.
- 1,500 pounds disinfectants.
- 5,593 towels and handkerchiefs.
- 1,050 bed sacks, &c.
- 250 blankets and comforts.
- 31,725 articles for hospitals and soldiers' homes.
- 3,155 bandages, rags and lint.
- 11,829 quires of stationery, paper and bundles envelopes.
- 1,015 packages reading matter and books of instruction.
- 20,573 miscellaneous articles.

These articles amounted, in the aggregate, to hundreds of tons, for which transportation was furnished by the Government. The agent

who superintended the shipment, transmission and distribution of these supplies, were Mr. JOSEPH McCULLOCH, cashier and shipping clerk at St. Louis, Messrs. ALBERT CLARK and H. B. BLOOD, agents at Nashville, and Mr. H. E. COLLINS, the general field agent of the Commission, with the army of General SHERMAN, and several assistants and detailed soldiers, acting under his direction. In the performance of their several duties, these gentlemen acted with great promptness, efficiency and good judgment, and to the entire satisfaction of the Commission and the commanding General. In a letter of General SHERMAN to the President of the Commission, he makes this acknowledgment of the good accomplished by its labors, and of the faithful character of its agents :

“I acknowledge, fully, that your Commission has done a world of good, and has enacted charity in that quiet and unostentatious manner that must command the love of all. And your agents have always acted with that subordination to authority, which is the result of “union”—the Union that we strive for.

“With great respect,

“Your friend,

“W. T. SHERMAN,

“*Major General.*”

General SHERMAN was much embarrassed at times by the want of combination in sanitary labors, each State and county, and many religious societies and local associations, sending their own agents to the front with sanitary stores, to distribute them among the troops from particular States or localities, burdening the military department with unnecessary labor, with the transportation of too many agents, and too many separate lots of stores, at a time when every railroad car and government wagon was needed for strictly military purposes, and when, by a combination of labor among the sanitary agencies, this work could have been much more expeditiously performed, with greater efficiency, economy and impartiality.

In a letter to Mr. YEATMAN, on this subject, in the spring of 1864, General SHERMAN thus expressed his own views of the work of the Sanitary Commission :

“My opinions on sanitary matters are well matured. The magnificent contributions of our countrymen and countrywomen exhibit a noble generosity and unbounded resources. But to apply the latter, requires system. The system adopted in the Fifteenth Army Corps has worked as smoothly and harmoniously as possible. In this plan, in which your Commission has co-operated so fully, you have received the aggregated donations, and given them to a single resident agent, who distributes to all parts of the army alike, through the commissioned surgeons and commanding officers. By this method, all soldiers receive their due share of ‘preventive’ stores [anti-scorbutics and the like,] as well as of hospital clothing and delicacies. Charity, like the dews of Heaven, should fall on all alike. Special charities in the army, by making distinctions, create jealousies and discontent. Besides, we have not the facilities of transportation and quarters to accommodate the representatives of the varied charities that approach us. Here I have not the means to transport to our front the munitions of war, and provisions also, lately necessary for warlike ends, and I have been embarrassed by the applications of all sorts of people, who come from every quarter, and would monopolize our railroad cars to reach the points of destination. To be effectual, the agents of religion and charity must be subordinate to the great ends and objects of the war. It is wonderful how men of sense still remain blind to this fact, and persist in going to the front, when every soldier feels that two hundred pounds of powder and oats are more necessary than that amount of human flesh and bones, however intent on works of faith and charity. If the charities of the North will consolidate, and send me accredited agents, I will so instruct them that their end may be attained, without a serious

disturbance of the military current; but if States, counties and societies, will insist on sending delegates and separate agents, we must decline their services, however praiseworthy in the abstract."

In accordance with the views of General SHERMAN, the contributions of sanitary supplies for his army passed mainly through the agencies of the Western and the United States Sanitary Commissions, the United States Christian Commission acting chiefly as a religious body, in co-operation with the Chaplains of the army.

Soon after the funds derived from the Sanitary Fair were received, the Commission appropriated fifty thousand dollars to the Ladies' Union Aid Society to carry on its sanitary work in the hospitals, and its system of aid to soldiers' families, and \$1,000 per month to the Ladies' Freedmen's Relief Association for its work in aid of the poor families and orphans of freedmen and colored soldiers.

In all the work of the Western Sanitary Commission, from the beginning of the war, it has always found ready and willing co-workers in both these societies. The hospitals of St. Louis and vicinity, and the families of soldiers, of refugees and of freedmen, have been constantly visited by their members, and the work of relief accomplished; special diet kitchens were established at an early period, and carried on by the Ladies' Union Aid Society at Benton Barracks, and at Nashville, Tenn., as long as they were needed. Noble women have been sustained by it, as agents at the above posts, and at Jefferson Barracks, and in its work of charity to persons made helpless and dependent by the calamities of the war. In the conduct of the Fair, its President, Mrs. ALFRED CLAPP, and all its active members, labored most usefully and successfully with the Commission, being devoted to the same good work, in a sphere peculiarly suited to the labors of woman. The President of the Ladies' Freedmen's Relief Association, Mrs. LUCIEN EATON, and other active members of that society, acted with equal zeal and efficiency in the work of the Fair, and were in equal need

of funds to carry on the work of charity and patriotism in which they were engaged. For these reasons both these appropriations were considered just and proper, and in accordance with the spirit and purposes of the Fair.

A generous contribution was made to the Fair, by the St. Louis County Court, of the Smizer Farm, the proceeds of which, as a part of the combination sales, amounted to forty thousand dollars. Considering the source of this gift, and the large amounts received from St. Louis in other ways, it was thought proper to establish a Soldiers' Orphans' Home, near this city, an institution greatly needed, and to make an appropriation of twenty-five thousand dollars to the War Relief Fund of St. Louis, managed by a committee, for the relief of soldiers' families, widows and orphans, by aiding them with rations and fuel, and supplying such necessities of life as their own exertions would not enable them to procure. The County Court has always acted with liberality towards both the War Relief Committee and this Commission, having made to each generous appropriations in the past, and the War Relief Committee being engaged in a common work of benevolence to the soldiers and their families, and having excellent facilities for supplying an urgent want, (especially in the distribution of fuel,) which the Commission could not so conveniently do, through its own agency, this appropriation was considered to be wise and proper, in view of the exhausted resources of the Committee, and the great good yet to be accomplished by it. The amount devoted to this object has been wisely and well spent under the direction of T. B. EDGAR, Esq., the excellent President of that Committee, and through the labors of the Secretary, Mr. R. Brock, and the different agencies in the various Wards of the city, from whom, on the conclusion of their labors, full reports may be expected.

After deliberate consideration of the great need of a Soldiers' Orphans' Home, for the maintenance and education of the numerous

orphans of deceased soldiers, who have been left objects of charity, the Commission decided to establish such an institution, and purchased the building and grounds formerly known as Webster College, near the Webster Station, on the Pacific Railroad, in St. Louis county, ten miles west of the city, at a cost of twelve thousand and sixty-one dollars, consisting of a large stone edifice and twenty acres of land, admirably suited to this purpose. The sum of five thousand dollars was also appropriated towards the expenses of furnishing the institution, and providing its first supplies, and the property and the management of the Home were placed in the hands of a committee of the Ladies' "National League," of St. Louis, and an advisory committee of gentlemen, associated with them, with the offer from the Commission that the whole should be conveyed to a Board of Trustees, of their own selection, on condition of their raising an endowment of fifty thousand dollars and assuming the responsibilities of the trust. A public meeting was held, soon after; an organization was effected, and the undertaking commenced. A portion of the money was soon raised, and the State Legislature appropriated \$5,000 a year, for ten years, towards the support of the institution. Since this was done the Commission has expended an additional sum of twenty thousand dollars, in new buildings, so as to enlarge the accommodations of the Home for one hundred and fifty orphans, and has offered an appropriation of \$10,000 additional funds, provided the Trustees will complete the \$50,000 endowment fund by the 22d of February, 1866, making a sum more than equal to the amount received from the gift of St. Louis county, in the Smizer Farm.

On the 7th of January, 1865, the Legislature of Missouri passed an act incorporating the institution, by the title of "The Soldiers' Orphans' Home, of St. Louis," and on the 31st of the same month made the yearly appropriation already mentioned. The following

corporators are named in the act as the Board of Trustees, and the following members of the Ladies' "National League," as a Board of Lady Managers :

BOARD OF TRUSTEES—E. W. Fox, N. C. Chapman, A. S. W. Goodwin, D. B. Gale, Dwight Durkee, T. B. Edgar, John H. Fisse, Henry Kennedy, M. L. Linton, John H. Lightner, S. H. Laflin, James Richardson, Henry S. Reed, Henry A. Homeyer, and their successors.

LADY MANAGERS—Mrs. Mary A. Ranlett, Mrs. Rebecca Webb, Mrs. Evelina C. Dickinson, Mrs. Mary E. Allen, Mrs. Clara C. Partridge, Mrs. Anna E. Filley, Mrs. Susanna Ware, Mrs. Elizabeth W. Clarke, Mrs. Mary L. Woodruff, Mrs. Sophia C. Goodwin, Mrs. Catharine R. Springer, Mrs. Melinda J. How, Mrs. Henrietta E. Cunningham, Mrs. Sophronia Barth, Mrs. J. O. Pierce, Mrs. Mary Gemp, Mrs. Charity Barnard, and Mrs. Sarah R. Avery.

The Soldiers' Orphans' Home, thus provided for and organized, was opened in the winter of 1865, with sixty orphans, under the care of Mrs. S. A. PLUMMER as Matron, and Miss S. F. McCracken as Teacher.

In the following spring it was dedicated, by appropriate ceremonies, consisting of prayer and addresses, by Rev. W. G. ELIOT, D. D., and Rev. H. A. NELSON, D. D., of St. Louis, on which occasion a large company of friends of the institution were present and partook of a collation in a grove near the buildings, and spent several hours in the Home, surveying its excellent arrangements, and looking with interest upon the children, whom the vicissitudes of war have bereft of one or both parents, and left to the care of this noble charity.

Besides the supplies sent to the army of General SHERMAN, before it had passed beyond Atlanta, on its march through the South, the Commission was desirous of forwarding a generous supply of sanitary articles to our prisoners at Andersonville, in the prospect that their

delivery could be accomplished, either by the consent of the enemy or the capture of the place, and a letter was written by the President of the Commission to General SHERMAN proposing to send a shipment for this purpose, and offering the sum of five or ten thousand dollars additional, to be expended, as he might judge necessary, for the benefit of the thousands of Union soldiers, held there as prisoners of war, whose sufferings, under the inhuman treatment they received, had already become widely known, and had excited the sympathies and anxieties of the people of the North, and of their friends and kindred in the loyal States.

To this proposition Mr. YEATMAN received from General SHERMAN the following reply :

“HEADQUARTERS, MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

“ATLANTA, *September 22, 1864.*

“JAMES E. YEATMAN, ESQ.,

“*President Western Sanitary Commission :*

“DEAR SIR : Yours of the 14th inst. is received. * * * The condition of the prisoners at Andersonville has always been present to my mind, and could I have released them, I would have felt more real satisfaction than to have won another battle. Indeed, STONEMAN’S trip was partly for that purpose, and I fear failed, partially, because the General took a road East of Ocmulgee, instead of West, as I contemplated and ordered. I have frequent messages from them, and have sent word to the men to be of good cheer, that the day of their deliverance was approaching; but I now think that JEFF. DAVIS is removing them to Charleston, Savannah, and a point on the Macon and Savannah road, at Millen, where a branch puts off for Augusta. My last escaped prisoner left Andersonville on the 12th inst., at which date many train loads had gone off eastward, and this reduction of the number will improve the condition of the balance.

"I am now engaged in exchanging with General Hood two thousand of the prisoners, but this is confined to the last two thousand captured from my army, who, of course, are not in as bad condition as those who have been longer confined. During the few days that must expire before all the papers are completed, I will have occasion to write to General Hood, and will offer to send down some fifty or sixty tons of clothing and other necessities, but I doubt if he will consent. These Confederates are as proud as the Devil, and hate to confess their poverty; but I know they are really unable to supply socks, drawers, undershirts, scissors, combs, soap, &c., which our men need, more than anything else, to preserve cleanliness and health. Should he assent, however, I will telegraph you to send me such articles as we do not have on hand, and will give credit to your Commission for all I obtain. This appears to me the best manner in which I can carry out your humane, patriotic, and most worthy object.

"With sentiments of great respect,

"Your friend,

"W. T. SHERMAN,

"*Major General Commanding.*"

At a later date, Mr. YEATMAN received a telegram from General SHERMAN, requesting a shipment for the Andersonville prisoners to be made. His request was immediately complied with, and a large supply of the articles mentioned in his letter, with many additional ones, suited to the wants of men in their condition, was packed in boxes, which were marked: "Major General W. T. SHERMAN, for the Andersonville Prisoners."

This shipment arrived safely at the front, but the exigences of the campaign were such that it became impossible for General SHERMAN to carry out his benevolent intention, and the boxes were returned to the Commission at St. Louis. The next spring, however, as the war drew to its close, the prisoners at Andersonville were released,

and arrived in a body at Vicksburg, on their way to the North, to be discharged, and return to the bosom of their families.

The Commission, learning of their arrival at Vicksburg, immediately forwarded the same boxes of supplies, with the original marks upon them, to its agent at that place, where the distribution was made to them, and as their necessities were still very great, a real good was done to these poor men, who had suffered so long from rebel inhumanity and outrage.

In a letter of Mr. YEATMAN, the President of the Commission, to Major General W. T. SHERMAN, dated May 15, 1865, he relates to him the reception of these gifts by the liberated prisoners, and their joy at this evidence of the General's remembrance of them, in their period of confinement and suffering ; for the boxes were addressed to his care, and, as they had learned, at his request. In this letter Mr. YEATMAN thus describes the scene of their reception :

“I know that it will afford you pleasure, even in the midst of your triumphal entry into our capitol, to learn that the goods which we sent to you, for the prisoners at Andersonville, had at last reached them. They were returned to the Commission from Chattanooga, and on learning that the Andersonville prisoners were all being sent to Vicksburg for exchange, the goods were at once forwarded to our agent at that place, and freely distributed among them. When they saw the boxes, marked ‘Maj. Gen’l W. T. SHERMAN, for Prisoners at Andersonville,’ the men shed tears of gratitude, and expressed their joy that their old General, ‘Old Billy,’ as they termed you, had not forgotten them.”

This letter was received by General SHERMAN after the completion of his great campaign, and elicited from him the following noble reply :

"HEADQUARTERS, MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

"IN THE FIELD, *May* 21, 1865.

"CAMP NEAR ALEXANDRIA, VA.

"JAMES E. YEATMAN, ESQ.,

"MY DEAR FRIEND : On my arrival here from Richmond, by land, I found, among many letters, your valued favor of May 15, and was glad, as you could have been, to learn that those boxes of stores prepared by you, with such promptness, for the Andersonville prisoners, reached them at last. I don't think I ever set my heart so strongly on any one thing as I did in attempting to rescue those prisoners, and I had almost feared that, instead of doing them good, I had actually done harm; for they were changed from place to place to avoid me, and I could not, with Infantry, overtake railroads; but *at last* their prison doors are open, and I do think and hope that things have reached a point when further war, or battle, or severity, other than the punishment of *crime* by the civil tribunals, is past.

* * * * *

"I confess, without shame, that I am tired and sick of the war. Its glory is all moonshine. Even success, the most brilliant, is over dead and mangled bodies, the anguish and lamentations of distant families, appealing to me for missing sons, husbands and fathers. You, too, have seen these things, and I know you also are tired of war, and are willing to let the civil tribunals resume their place; and, as far as I know, all the fighting men of our army want *peace*. It is only those who have not heard a shot, nor heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded and lacerated, (friend or foe) that cry aloud for more blood, more vengeance, more desolation; and so help me God, as a man and a soldier, I will not strike a foe, who stands unarmed and submissive before me, but will say: 'Go, and sin no more.'

* * * * *

"I thank you always for your cordial friendship, which is truly reciprocated.

"W. T. SHERMAN,
"Major General."

During the period, from May 1st to December 1st, 1864, the following distributions of sanitary articles were made to the hospitals at Memphis, Vicksburg, Helena, Duvall's Bluff, Little Rock and St. Louis :

- 200,640 cans assorted fruits and tomatoes.
- 21,280 cans condensed milk and sugar of lemons.
- 17,350 cans oysters, chickens, and other meats and soups.
- 158,502 bottles blackberry cordial, wines, ale and other stimulants.
- 7,934 bottles essences and flavoring extracts.
- 16,197 bottles fruits, sauces and jellies.
- 17,793 gallons pickles.
- 48,623 pounds crackers.
- 40,670 gallons sauer kraute.
- 101,993 pounds assorted dried fruit.
- 16,919 pounds extract of beef and dried beef.
- 19,866 pounds codfish and mackerel.
- 11,435 pounds butter, cheese and lard.
- 36,600 pounds ice.
- 18,559 pounds farina, corn starch and arrowroot, &c.
- 7,950 pounds toast or zwiebeck.
- 2,735 pounds spices.
- 7,234 pounds sugar, tea, cocoa, broma, &c.
- 11,492 bushels potatoes.
- 4,775 bushels onions.
- 14,554 dozens eggs.
- 13,397 shirts and drawers.
- 11,530 pairs of socks.
- 7,433 pairs of shoes and slippers.

ARTICLES OF CLOTHING.

- 13,182 yards of material dress goods, domestics, &c., for freed-men and refugees.
- 21,348 dozens buttons, thread, papers of needles.
- 8,502 combs.
- 12,132 towels and handkerchiefs.
- 17,850 bed sacks, sheets and pillows.
- 14,577 blankets and comforts.

14,055 articles for hospitals and soldiers' homes.
 5,435 bandages, rags and lint.
 36,034 quires of stationery, paper and envelopes.
 13,135 reading matter and books of instruction.
 30,611 miscellaneous articles.

TO DESTITUTE SOLDIERS' FAMILIES.

20,340 pounds bacon sides.
 16,580 pounds fresh beef.
 858 cords wood.
 203,742 pounds flour.

During the autumn of 1864, the rebel General STERLING PRICE made his last great raid into Missouri, capturing Pilot Knob after a brave resistance by Brigadier General THOMAS EWING, Jr., and marching with his rebel horde, at first towards St. Louis, then through the interior of the State, occupying Franklin for a few days, and threatening Rolla, Jefferson City, and other important places, destroying bridges, and robbing the inhabitants of food and clothing, till they reached the very borders of Kansas, where, after a severe battle, they were driven southward from the State. During this invasion, there was great activity on the part of the Union forces. Besides the volunteer troops in the regular service, the State militia was called out, and every military post, and every important city, was immediately placed in a state of defence. A large portion of the volunteer forces, belonging to the army, was brought hurriedly up the river from below, and the suddenness of military movements subjected the men to many deprivations, and gave them no time to draw their winter clothing from the Quartermasters, at the very time when cold weather was approaching. Passing hurriedly through St. Louis, the Western Sanitary Commission rooms were daily thronged with soldiers, destitute of comfortable clothing, generally without overcoats or blankets, often with worn-out shoes, thin blouses, and no underclothing, bringing written requests from their company or regimental commanders to

the Commission, stating some obstacle to their being supplied from the Government Quartermasters, and asking that clothing might be given them by the Commission. It was an urgent necessity, and was met with all possible promptitude and dispatch. Supplies of shoes, socks, blankets, coats and overcoats, were purchased, and delivered at the Commission rooms to all who needed, for several months, during which thousands of undershirts, drawers, socks, shoes, coats and blankets, were given to our brave troops, who, without the readiness and preparation of the Commission to help them, would have suffered extremely, and have become subjects for the treatment of the hospitals instead of aiding in the expulsion of the horde of invaders who were devastating the interior portions of the State.

At the same time, there was a large demand from the various post hospitals and regimental surgeons, in Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas and the Territories, for sanitary goods, hospital clothing, stimulants, delicate preparations of food for the sick, vegetables, pickles, sauer kraute, dried fruits, &c., &c, and the demand was answered by large shipments to Jefferson City, Warrensburg, Independence, Pleasant Hill, Glasgow, Rolla, Franklin, Kansas City, Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Duvall's Bluff, Fort Smith, Fayetteville, Fort Riley, Leavenworth, Fort Scott, Fort Zarah, Fort Halleck, Julesburg, Fort Laramie, Fort Larned, Cottonwood Crossing, Omaha, and wherever regiments of troops were stationed, during the fall of 1864 and the winter of 1865.

Another consequence of the invasion of Missouri, by the rebel forces under General PRICE, was a great increase of the number of destitute Union refugees, who came from all parts of the State to St. Louis, as the only place where they could procure shelter and food, and some addition to their scanty clothing. They often arrived in families, consisting of from four to eight or more, ill-clad, partially diseased children, with a sick mother, having no husband, or both

parents being in poor health, without means to pay for a night's lodging, or a meal of victuals. The army of PRICE, in passing through their neighborhood, had taken the little crop of corn they had raised, their pigs and poultry, and even the bed clothing from their beds, and there was no resource for them but to get to St. Louis, where they hoped to subsist for awhile, on the charity of the Government. Thousands of them came in this way, not only from the remote counties of Missouri, but from Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, boat loads of them being forwarded from time to time by our military commanders, from Fort Smith, Little Rock, Vicksburg, and other military posts, to get rid of subsisting them on Government rations and providing them with shelter, finding them also an incumbrance, and a cause of demoralization to the army.

At St. Louis, the Secretary of the Commission, Rev. J. G. FORMAN, holding also a commission as a Chaplain, was assigned to the work of superintending and caring for these refugees, the military authorities relying largely upon the Commission to sustain and aid him in this work, authorizing the drawing of a charity ration, and providing a building for shelter, but leaving all other expenses—the furnishing of it, providing a matron and teachers for the children, and subordinate workers, hospital treatment, and all other deficiencies—to the Sanitary Commission.

The first application of these refugees was uniformly at the rooms of the Commission, where one room had to be wholly set apart for their reception, which was crowded with new arrivals, from day to day, and where often it was necessary to furnish them with additions to their clothing, to prevent extreme suffering, and enable them to encounter the cold. For awhile it was necessary to transport them in wagons, (on one day fifteen government wagons were necessary,) from St. Louis to Benton Barracks, for shelter; but in the winter of 1865, the Lawson hospital building, in the

city, was procured as a temporary home for them, and retained in this use till the next July.

All this work for refugees, and an equal work for destitute freedmen, and the helpless wives and children of colored soldiers, devolved great labor and expense upon the Commission, rendering the fall and winter of 1864-5 almost as busy a period, to its President and its members as some of those in which the great battles of the war had been fought, in the earlier campaigns in Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee. Besides this work for refugees and freedmen at St. Louis, feeling itself called to assist the Government in all the humanities of the war, and a portion of its resources having been contributed for this purpose, it made large shipments of clothing, medicines and sanitary articles for the destitute, to Springfield, Mo., Pilot Knob, Rolla, Leavenworth and Fort Scott, Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, Helena, Fayetteville, Little Rock, Vicksburg and Natchez; and provided teachers, schools, hospitals, surgeons, nurses, and temporary homes for them and their children, in several of these places; supplementing whatever was necessary to the aid furnished by the Government, and paying the salaries of teachers, nurses, matrons and agents of distribution, and in some instances of surgeons employed by contract; co-operating with the freedmen's relief associations, and aiding the chaplains of the army, wherever they were assigned to the same work. Besides the labors of the Secretary at St. Louis, in the personal superintendence of the refugees and freedmen's homes, and the dispensation of the charity of the Commission and of the Government, the President, Mr. YEATMAN, visited the whole field of operations, in the Mississippi Valley, once in August, 1864, and again in the spring of 1865, going as far as Little Rock, Vicksburg, and Nashville, Tenn., to look after the agencies of the Commission, in the distribution of sanitary supplies to the army, the management of the soldiers' homes, the refugee

homes, the schools for the children of refugees and freedmen, the military and the freedmen's hospitals; and to ascertain how far the necessity existed for a continuance of this work in the future, and at what points supplies were most needed. On his return from both these visits, further shipments were made to Memphis, Helena, Duvall's Bluff, Little Rock, Vicksburg and Natchez, and arrangements made, on the last visit, for the closing of these agencies, and of the soldiers' homes, and those for refugees, in view of the end of the war, then rendered certain by the taking of Richmond and the surrender of the rebel armies under LEE and JOHNSON. The statistics and particulars of the work for the refugees and freedmen will be given in a separate chapter, and also the accounts of receipts, expenditures and distributions by the Commission, from the holding of the Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair (the date of its previous report) to the close of its labors with the year 1865.

During the fall and winter of 1864-5, the troubles with the Indians along the overland route to California, and in the new territories, broke out afresh, and many additional regiments of troops were sent in that direction, constituting a large force on the plains, which were but poorly supplied by the commissary department with vegetable food, because it could not be purchased so far beyond the reach of supply, and where the surgeons could not procure many needed articles for the sick, not furnished by the Government, or of which the supplies to the medical department were insufficient. In consequence of these deficiencies, large and urgent demands were made upon the Commission from all the military posts on the frontier, and westward as far as Colorado and Idaho.

The following letter of Mr. YEATMAN to Assistant Surgeon, J. T. WISELY, at Julesburg, C. T., accompanying a consignment of sanitary stores, with a list of the articles forwarded, will indicate the nature of the demand at all these military posts on the plains,

and in the distant territories, and the kind of supplies furnished to them by the Commission:

“ROOMS WESTERN SANITARY COMMISSION,

“ST. LOUIS, MO., Nov. 9, 1864.

“J. T. WISELY, A. A. S. U. S. A.,

“JULESBURG, C. T.,

“DEAR SIR: Your favor of the 26th inst. is received, and I take pleasure in complying with your request, and have ordered sanitary supplies packed and shipped, as you direct. I trust they will not be delayed in reaching you. Annexed you will find a list of the articles sent.

“Very respectfully, your ob’t serv’t,

“JAMES E. YEATMAN,

“*President.*”

10 kegs cabbage in currie,
 5 barrels cabbage and cucumber pickles,
 5 barrels sauer kraute,
 10 dozens cans chickens,
 5 boxes essence of beef,
 24 dozens tomatoes,
 20 dozens canned milk,
 12 dozens canned peaches,
 10 dozens canned blackberries,
 10 dozens canned raspberries,
 10 dozens cranberry sauce,
 6 dozens portable lemonade,
 6 dozens ginger wine,
 6 dozens elderberry wine,
 4 dozens blackberry jam,
 4 dozens raspberry jam,
 6 dozens blackberry cordial,
 5 barrels soda crackers,
 2 barrels zwiebeck or toasted bread,
 5 jars citric acid,
 100 hospital shirts,
 100 cotton flannel drawers,
 4 dozens red flannel shirts,

4 dozens knit woolen shirts,
 100 pairs socks,
 100 towels,
 2 libraries,
 20 packages reading matter.

The difficulties of transportation were a serious obstacle in forwarding these goods, but they generally reached their destination, being sent to the Medical Director, Surgeon J. H. PEABODY, at Omaha, N. T., by whom they were forwarded. The following letter from Assistant Surgeon J. T. WISELY, at Julesburg, Colorado Territory, will show something of the necessities of the service in that region, and the reception of most of the foregoing consignment :

“JULESBURG, C. T., *June 13, 1865.*

“JAMES E. YEATMAN, Esq.,

“*President Western Sanitary Commission :*

“SIR : I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d inst., and will, on behalf of the suffering soldiers, thank you and your associates for your prompt attention to them. I herewith transmit a receipt for the greater portion of your shipment of November last. [A portion of it failed to get through, and caused much disappointment.] I think I ought, in justice to the troops, to state that my appeal to you was based on a careful estimate of the state of the country and the wants of the fifteen thousand troops now on these sandy plains, or on the way. Of the one hundred gallons of pickles you kindly sent my poor scurvy men, not one was received. Of one hundred towels, not one came. [Greater care was afterwards taken against such losses.]

“Very respectfully,

“Your obedient servant,

“J. T. WISELY,

“*A. A. Surgeon.*”

This letter was written previous to the receipt of another shipment of stores, sent early in June, 1865, to the Medical Director, at Julesburg, Surgeon HOGEBROOM. The following letter of Mr. YEATMAN accompanied this shipment :

“ROOMS WESTERN SANITARY COMMISSION,

“ST. LOUIS, *June 2, 1865.*

“Surgeon G. W. HOGEBROOM,

“*Medical Director, District of the Plains,*

“JULESBURG, C. T., .

“DEAR SIR: I have directed a good supply of sanitary stores to be sent to you to-day, consisting of thirty barrels of kraute, ten barrels of pickles, fifty dozens cans tomatoes, canned milk, oysters, turkey, chicken soup, blackberry brandy, &c., &c., which are intended for the men under your care, either in hospitals or regiments, where they will do the most good, which I leave to your judgment. I have written to Dr. WISELY to take charge of these things, in case of your absence.

“Very truly, yours,

“JAMES E. YEATMAN.”

The Medical Director, Surgeon HOGEBROOM, had removed his headquarters one hundred and eighty miles further west, to Fort Laramie, and these supplies were received by Surgeon WISELY, and used at Julesburg.

The following communication, from Assistant Surgeon JEREMIAH LUBIN, in charge of the post hospital at Fort Zarah, Kansas, indicates the necessities of another post, as late as the month of August, 1865 :

“HOSPITAL, FORT ZARAH, KANSAS, *August 17, 1865.*

“JAMES E. YEATMAN, ESQ.,

“*President Western Sanitary Commission :*

“SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a requisition for sanitary supplies for this post. The number of persons entitled

to medical care the last six months, has varied from 300 to 1500. Scurvy is the most formidable and prevalent disease we have to combat here. It modifies or intensifies all other diseases, and wounds even, as is demonstrated almost daily. As the "materia medica" fails in furnishing adequate remedies to cure or prevent this loathsome malady, I have entertained the opinion that the Western Sanitary Commission would furnish as much or more of the articles necessary to meet the indications in the prevention and cure of it, than can be obtained through any other channel. Trusting that this application will be favorably responded to,

"I am, most respectfully,

"Your ob't servant,

"JEREMIAH LUBIN,

"A. A. S., U. S. A., in charge."

A good supply of vegetables, pickles, tomatoes, (anti-scorbutics) was immediately forwarded to this post.

These applications are but samples of others from all the distant military posts, and from regimental surgeons throughout the division west of the Mississippi river, under the command of Major General PORE. In this division the Western Sanitary Commission was unaided by any other Commission, and was the only source of sanitary supplies. Its labors were extended beyond the close of the war, because of the large number of troops required on the western frontier and in the territories, as far as the Rocky Mountains, to subdue the outbreaks of the Indians, and to protect the border settlements and the overland travel and mails to the Pacific coast.

Soon after the grand army of General SHERMAN cut loose from its base, and went on its great march through the Southern Confederacy, the Commission being unable longer to follow, gradually withdrew its agencies from Atlanta, Chattanooga, Huntsville and

Nashville, leaving the field to the United States Sanitary Commission, and directing its labors, more entirely than before, to the necessities of the army west of the Mississippi river. It continued to sustain its soldiers' homes at Vicksburg, Memphis, and Columbus, Ky., until the war of the rebellion was ended, in the spring of 1865, and to supply the hospitals of several of the military posts, on the east side of the Mississippi river, with sanitary stores, and to aid in the work for the freedmen and refugees, and the supply of the freedmen's hospitals, through the summer of 1865; but its chief labors, during this last year of its active work, were expended in the Military Division of the Mississippi, from the Missouri river to the Arkansas, and from the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains.

In the distribution of sanitary supplies to the army, the Commission has, from the first enlistment of colored soldiers, taken pains to meet their wants, and has many acknowledgments from their commanders. The following, from the Surgeon of the 113th U. S. Colored Infantry, stationed at Duvall's Bluff, Arkansas, was received in August, 1865, and will evince something of the care taken by the Commission that this class of our troops, who have on so many fields proved their strength and valor, should not be neglected:

“HEADQUARTERS 113TH U. S. COLORED INFANTRY,

“DUVALL'S BLUFF, ARK., *August 3, 1865.*

“JAMES E. YEATMAN, ESQ.,

“*President Western Sanitary Commission :*

“DEAR SIR: I herewith enclose a receipt for sanitary supplies, just received from you. These supplies, though unexpected, were indeed very acceptable, and, in the name of the regiment, I heartily thank you for them. We shall never forget the assistance received from the Western Sanitary Commission, during the last spring and early summer, while this regiment was suffering extensively from scurvy. Your late agent at Little Rock, Dr. WYETH,

supplied us liberally with vegetables and other stores, which were all important in restoring our men to health. With sentiments of gratitude,

“I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

“W. H. HIPOLITE,

“*Surgeon 113th U. S. Colored Infantry.*”

The labors of the President of the Commission also extended to the supplying of the military hospitals of the West with competent female nurses. As the agent of Miss DOROTHEA L. DIX, to whom the selection and appointment of this class of nurses was originally confided by the Government, Mr. YEATMAN performed this duty for the Western Department, from the beginning of the war. All applications for these situations had to be addressed to him, and the commissions to be made out by him, and approved by the Medical Directors. When assigned to duty in the general hospitals, these nurses received forty cents per day, and a ration and quarters, from the Government. Such as were assigned to duty in post hospitals, and the hospitals for freedmen and refugees, being unauthorized by the Government, had to be paid by the Sanitary Commission. The work of receiving and answering applications, selecting suitable persons, and commissioning and assigning them to the hospitals, was arduous and difficult, and occasioned a large correspondence. This difficult trust was performed with great conscientiousness and care, and many noble and devoted women were introduced to a work of the highest usefulness by it, and rendered the most important services to the sick and wounded soldiers. Among the true heroines of the war was the army of faithful nurses, who went through the exposures and deprivations of hospital life to raise up, by gentle nursing, the sick and disabled soldier, and send him forth again to do battle for his country and her righteous cause. Of the nurses who remained on duty through

the last year of the war, whose names are mentioned in a previous report, were Miss CARRIE C. MCNAIR, Miss HATTIE WISWELL, Miss N. A. SHEPARD, Miss CORNELIA M. TOMPKINS, Miss C. A. HARWOOD, Miss REBECCA M. CRAIGHEAD, Mrs. S. A. PLUMMER, Miss IDA JOHNSON, Mrs. LUCY E. STARR, Mrs. DOROTHEA OGDEN, Miss LOUISA MAERTZ, Miss HARRIET N. PHILLIPS, Mrs. A. REESE, Mrs. MARIA BROOKS, Mrs. MARY OTIS, Miss HARRIET PEABODY, Mrs. M. A. WELLS, Miss LUCY I. BISSELL, Mrs. FLORENCE P. STERLING, Miss N. L. OSTRAM, Mrs. ANNE WARD, Miss ISABELLA M. HARTSHORN, Mrs. MARY ELLIS, Mrs. L. E. LATHROP, Mrs. A. TANNEHILL, Miss LOUISA OTIS, Mrs. LYDIA LEACH, Mrs. MARY ANDREWS, Mrs. MARY LUDLOW, Miss PHOEBE ALLEN, Mrs. HANNAH A. HAINES, Mrs. ALLEN, names that will be long remembered with honor and affection.

As a result of his best observation and reflection upon the services of woman in this important work, her capacity for it, and the advantages of a Protestant sisterhood of educated nurses, in affording employment, an honored vocation and an aim in life to many noble women, who are now destitute of such a sphere of usefulness, Mr. YEATMAN has conceived the plan of establishing a hospital for invalids in some of our large cities, that shall be placed in charge of such a sisterhood, which shall become a school for the education of women nurses, and at the same time an institution of charity for indigent invalids, as well as a place of cure for those able to pay for its advantages, the sisterhood to be bound together by suitable vows, and to be sustained and supported, in their devotion to this work, by the Protestant churches of the land. This idea is certainly worthy the earnest consideration of Christian philanthropists, and if carried into effect, would enable the Protestant churches of Christendom to unite in the endowment of charitable institutions in the hands of such a sisterhood that would equal at least those founded by the Roman Catholic Church, and give

to the world "Sisters of Charity," animated by the Protestant Christian faith.

Besides the resources of the Commission, derived from the Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair, contributions of sanitary stores for the soldiers, and of clothing and money for the freedmen and refugees, continued to be received from many communities and individuals, who remained thoroughly interested in its work till the end. The Soldiers' Aid Society, of Peoria, Illinois, of which Miss MARY E. BARTLETT was Secretary, was always liberal, and constant in its co-operation, sending large and valuable donations, both in money and in sanitary supplies, through the four years of the war, and never remitting its exertions as long as there was anything to do. The Commission has always had warm and generous friends also in New York, Boston, Cambridge, Salem, New Bedford, Mass., and Portsmouth, N. H., from whom it has been constantly receiving liberal donations in money and supplies for the soldiers, and for freedmen and refugees, up to the close of its labors. Its members will have occasion long to remember the interest, friendship and liberality of such persons as J. A. ROOSEVELT, of New York, JAMES M. BARNARD, M. S. SCUDDER, A. C. GREENLEAF, EDWARD ATKINSON, WM. ENDICOTT, and Mr. and Mrs. THOMAS LAMB, of Boston, JOHN H. NICHOLS, of Salem, Miss MARY E. HOWE, of Cambridge, and many others, whose names are less familiar to the writer, but who have been equally earnest and devoted to the work of this Commission, in the West. Among all the States of the Union, which have given with a willing and generous hand, to both the United States and the Western Sanitary Commissions, none have surpassed Massachusetts; and, though operating in a wholly western field, this Commission is free to acknowledge that its largest and most munificent contributions came from the old Bay State.

In the Western States, contributions continued to flow to the Commission from many towns in Iowa and Illinois, and the labors of the

soldier's aid societies, in these places, performed by the hands of the noble women of the West—whose husbands, and sons, and brothers, have shared in the toils, the sacrifices, and the victories of the western division of the great army of the Union—will be gratefully remembered. Among the communities who have thus aided the Commission, through the last year of its labors, some of them, not mentioned in its previous reports, are: Glenwood, Columbus, Bedford, Blue Grass and Mount Pleasant, Iowa; Griggsville, Olney, Carlisle, Orleans, Evanston, Peoria, Jacksonville, Omphgent, Shipman and Tremont, Illinois; Louisiana, Mo., and St. Paul, Minn.

In this great work of sustaining our noble army of citizen soldiers, engaged in an arduous struggle for the integrity of the nation, and for the maintenance of a most righteous cause, the East and the West have joined hands, and the noblest endeavors of a great nation have been blessed with the fruition of the highest hopes, and the establishment of peace and liberty, on the sure foundations of eternal right.

CHAPTER III.

SOLDIERS' HOMES AND AGENCIES—THE HOME IN ST. LOUIS—AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE—AT COLUMBUS, KY.—HOME AND AGENCY AT VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI—HOME AND AGENCIES AT HELENA, ARKANSAS—HOME AND AGENCY AT DUVALL'S BLUFF, ARKANSAS—AGENCY AT LITTLE ROCK—STATISTICS OF THE SOLDIERS' HOMES CONSOLIDATED.

AMONG the most useful and beneficent labors of the Western Sanitary Commission, has been the establishment and support of soldiers' homes at St. Louis, Columbus, Ky., Memphis, Helena, Vicksburg, and Duvall's Bluff, Arkansas; affording hospitable entertainment and comfortable fare to thousands of our brave men, who, in passing to their homes on furlough, and returning to their regiments, or leaving the army on their final discharge, have thus been saved from large hotel expenses, from extortion and imposition, and often from exposure and suffering, through inability to procure a place of rest and a temporary home. Considering the small pay of the private soldier, the long periods that he has often been obliged to wait for it, and the claims of his wife and children at home; remembering the sick and disabled condition in which he has often returned to them, on furlough, for a few weeks of rest and recuperation, and how many have obtained their discharge to go to their homes, thousands of miles from the seat of war, to die or remain disabled for life, this free hospitality of our Soldiers' Homes has been one of the greatest benefits conferred on them, and fully justifies all the outlay of sustaining these institutions. Here, too, has been a sure and practical way in which the contributions of the soldiers' aid societies and of the friends of our cause, through the Sanitary Commission, have certainly reached

and accomplished their object. These homes for the soldier have been materially aided by the Government furnishing a ration and fuel for all enlisted men entertained at them, leaving the Commission to make all other necessary provisions, of furniture, bedding and extra diet, employing a Superintendent, Matron, Cooks, &c., supplying all deficiencies and meeting all extra expenses. They have also been provided, by the Commission, with reading rooms and reading matter, and religious services have been conducted, either by the Superintendent, or such Chaplains as have happened occasionally to be visiting them.

The Soldiers' Home, at St. Louis, was the first established, and its early history and statistics, as far as March 12th, 1864, are given in the history of the Commission, published in the spring of that year, page 35.

The whole number of soldiers entertained at this home, from its establishment, March 13th, 1862, to December 31st, 1865, has been seventy-one thousand and seventy-seven (71,077). The whole number of meals furnished, three hundred thousand nine hundred and seventy-two (300,972), and the whole number of lodgings, eighty-five thousand and fifteen (85,015).

The soldiers who were thus entertained were from the following States: From Missouri, 28,107; from Illinois, 13,683; from Iowa, 7,786; from Wisconsin, 4,487; from Indiana, 2,271; from Michigan, 1,169; from Minnesota, 1,878; from Kansas, 1,922; from Ohio, 1,814; from New York, 1,392; from the United States Regulars, 1,566; from the Invalid Corps, 1,589; from Kentucky, 228; from Arkansas, 451; from Nebraska, 687; from Pennsylvania, 163; from Massachusetts, 101; from Virginia, 41; from Marine Brigade, 278; from U. S. colored troops, 238; from other States, 1,421.

In the summer of 1864, the above Home was removed from 29 Fourth street to the building formerly known as the Pacific Hotel, on Spruce street, between Seventh and Eighth streets, where its

accommodations were much increased, and the number of guests entertained from that period was nearly doubled, on account of the greater number of soldiers passing and repassing through the city, separate from their commands, some on furlough, and many seeking their regiments, which had been transferred to Missouri in consequence of PRICE's invasion, or to the plains to suppress the troubles with the Indians.

On the 4th of October, 1864, Rev. CHARLES PEABODY, who had superintended and conducted the St. Louis Soldier's Home from the beginning, with great efficiency and excellent management, having resigned his position, was succeeded by Rev. WM. BRADLEY, who, being in the military service as a Chaplain, was, by request of the Commission, assigned to this duty by an order of Brigadier General EWING, commanding the district. Mr. BRADLEY had, previous to his chaplaincy, been engaged in the work of the Commission. Mrs. BRADLEY also became matron of the Home, and the good management and well ordered character of the institution, under Rev. Mr. PEABODY, were fully maintained under the new Superintendent, who has continued to conduct it till the present time, being continued by the Commission since the expiration of his chaplaincy in August last. Both in Mr. and Mrs. BRADLEY the Commission has found most faithful and excellent friends and helpers of the soldiers. The cast-off clothing left at the Home by many of the soldiers, Mrs. B. has made useful to others, by having it renovated and mended, and distributing it to such as were in destitution and want. Supplies of clothing for the destitute have also been furnished by the Commission and the Ladies' Union Aid Society, and have been distributed with the best of judgment at the Home.

Besides the entertainment of soldiers still remaining in the military service, the Commission has, for the last six months, directed that accommodations should be given to such discharged soldiers as might be disabled, sick, helpless, and indigent, and might apply for admission, having no home, or friends, or means of support. Since the

1st of May, 1865, there has been an average of from forty to fifty of this class provided for at the Home; among them men crippled for life, some of them blind, others suffering from incurable disease, or with constitutions utterly broken down by the hardships of the service. In the Soldiers' Home they have received medical attention, and the kind care and treatment of Mr. and Mrs. BRADLEY; and have been clothed and assisted, as their condition required. No rations are drawn for them from the Government.

The Commission has made repeated efforts to induce the Government to appropriate Jefferson Barracks, with its extensive buildings and grounds, to a permanent home for discharged, disabled and invalid soldiers having no means of support, and has offered to undertake the supervision and management of such an institution; but as yet nothing has been done. The war being ended, and Jefferson Barracks not really needed as a general hospital, its situation, (twelve miles below St. Louis, on the banks of the Mississippi,) and its buildings and grounds admirably suiting it to the purpose, there would seem to be no better use to which it could be devoted than this, which is called for by every consideration of gratitude to the worn-out soldier, and of patriotism and humanity.

The Government having thus far made no provision for this class of disabled soldiers, who have sacrificed all that makes life dear for their country, except the small pension it gives to such as can make out the necessary proofs required for this benefit, which thousands, by the carelessness of surgeons and company commanders in making out their discharge, will never be able to do, the Commission has felt it a duty to supply the deficiency, as far as it could, to those who might come to the St. Louis Soldiers' Home, the most permanent of these institutions, and most immediately under its care; and though not allowed to draw even a Government ration for them, to see that they were not left to suffer and die in the streets of a

city, originally saved to the Union, and from pillage and desecration, by their heroism and self-sacrifice.

Besides this charity to the war-worn and disabled indigent soldier, the Soldiers' Home has been a great benefit in cases of death occurring to the soldier on his way home, the Superintendent attending to his wants in his last sickness, ministering advice and consolation, providing for the burial, preserving the record of it, corresponding with his family, keeping his effects till they could be sent to them, and performing every needed office of kindness.

The following extract, from a letter received by the Superintendent, will be read with interest by all who can sympathize with the sad bereavements occasioned by the war, and it will also serve as a testimonial of the good that has been accomplished by our Soldiers' Homes. It relates to the case of a sick soldier, who died in the Home at St. Louis :

"My husband's death has been a sad blow to me. God only knows the agony of my heart. He was a good husband and father, and always kind and affectionate in his family. I thank God that he was prepared to die. I wish you to keep the \$50, and have grave-stones placed at his grave, for if I live I shall certainly visit the spot. His watch and other things, please send to me, in ———, Pennsylvania. I cannot express my thanks to you for your kindness to me and my husband. God will reward you. If there were more men like you in this world, we would be much happier. Please write me about the last hours of my dear departed husband. Did he say much about me? What were his last words, while in his right mind? Did he suffer much in dying? Give my love to those who took care of Edwin in his last illness, including yourself and wife, and believe me, ever,

"Your grateful friend,

"JANETTE BUELL."

The grave stones were procured by Mr. BRADLEY, and placed at the grave, in the soldier's cemetery, near Jefferson Barracks.

Many other letters from soldiers and their wives, testifying of their gratitude for the benefits of the Home, and for services rendered in cases of suffering, might be given, but would occupy more space than can be allotted for this purpose. Religious services, of an unsectarian character, are regularly maintained by Mr. BRADLEY, and much interest in them has been manifested by the soldiers.

The following report of the Soldiers' Home at Memphis, Tenn., was prepared by Mr. O. E. WATERS, the excellent Superintendent, and forwarded to the Commission, on the closing of the Home in August, 1865. Its history and statistics, down to March, 1864, are given in the history of the work of the Commission, (page 80,) published in the following May, with a lithograph of the Home as a frontispiece. It was under the superintendence of Mr. WATERS during the two years and a half of its existence; and his good and faithful management of it inspired the fullest confidence in his humanity, integrity and practical talent, and the highest appreciation of his valuable services to the soldier and to the Commission. To the worthy lady who was associated with him, as the Matron of the Home, Mrs. LUCY E. STARR, an equal meed of praise is due. Her services, first as a nurse in the Fifth street hospital at St. Louis, and for more than two years as Matron of the Memphis Soldiers' Home; her faithfulness, kindness, gentleness and constant devotion to the duties of her position, have secured for her the fullest confidence, and the grateful appreciation, not only of the members of the Commission, but of all the soldiers who have, under her wise and good management of its domestic affairs, enjoyed the comforts of the Home.

The report of Mr. WATERS is so admirable, in the fullness of its statistics, and its narrative of facts, that it is here given entire:

“SOLDIERS’ HOME, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, *August 15, 1865.*

“*Western Sanitary Commission, St. Louis, Mo.,*

“GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to submit the following final report of the Soldiers’ Home, established under your auspices, in this city, on the 13th day of February, 1863, having since that date been in operation two years and six months inclusive :

“The whole number of soldiers entertained from the beginning has been ninety-seven thousand (97,000).

“The whole number of meals furnished two hundred thousand (200,000).

“The whole number of lodgings ninety-eight thousand seven hundred and eighty-one (98,781).

“The whole number of colored soldiers entertained, one thousand and thirty (1,030).

“The whole number of rebel soldiers entertained, three hundred and thirty-eight (338).

“The whole number of sick soldiers entertained, four thousand six hundred and ninety (4,690).

“The whole number of deaths occurring in the Home seventeen (17).

“And the whole number of soldiers’ friends, agents of freedmen, teachers, and delegates of the Christian Commission, three thousand three hundred and twenty-eight (3,328).

“Of the above the Western States are represented in numbers as follows: Illinois, 12,340; Iowa, 4,685; Wisconsin, 3,906; Indiana, 3,799; Missouri, 3,679; Ohio, 2,033; Minnesota, 1,877.

“The balance is distributed among the other States of the Union, the New England States having the largest number.

“The average number entertained each day since the Home opened, is 106. The lowest number in a single day is 10, and the highest 800.

"The return of peace once more to our distracted land, and the disbandment of our armies, have rendered it unnecessary to keep open the doors of the Soldiers' Home. Accordingly, on this, the 15th day of August, 1865, they were formally closed, the Home having fully and satisfactorily accomplished the mission for which it was instituted.

"In reviewing the past, and living over again the days, weeks and months of my service, in this work, I am astonished at its magnitude and surprised at the multitude, the great army of men from all States of the Union, who have filed through these halls so quietly, so pleasantly, and with so much of harmony. The last two years, into which the great bulk of our work has been crowded, have been only remembrances of happy family scenes, although the numbers of our family have varied much from day to day. Yet, when I look back and meet again the thousands of faces that have appeared and vanished from our home, like bubbles upon the foaming sea, I can remember nothing but pleasant smiles, contented faces, and heartfelt expressions of gratitude, such as 'God bless you!' 'God bless the Sanitary Commission!' 'What a pleasant home!' 'How beautiful, how delightful!' 'Oh, I'll soon get well in this pleasant place!' 'Oh, sir, how kind they are to provide this for the suffering soldier!' 'Our friends have done more for us than we could reasonably expect!' 'Boys, this is bully grub!' 'What bully good pillows!' 'What a splendid bed, Joe!' 'Bill, this mattress is better than our straw tick at home; wish I could pack it along with me, in my knapsack!' And thus I could go on repeating thousands of similar expressions, which I have overheard, as our brave boys assembled around the table for their meals, or laid down upon their soft mattresses, to rest from the weary march. I can assure you, gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to remember and repeat to you these expressions of gratitude, coming with so much sincerity from the hearts of our war-worn veterans, who

have so nobly and valiantly fought, and conquered the foe of our beloved country. There are but few soldiers, among the vast multitude who have been entertained at your Home in Memphis, who will soon forget the benefits it has afforded them. In many cases soldiers have presented themselves to me with a demand for their bills, and were not a little surprised when informed that no charges were made; that all they had received was a *free gift of love*, provided for them by their friends in the North, through the Sanitary Commission. Not unfrequently we have been startled by the vociferous cheering of soldiers, thus expressing their gratitude and appreciation, as they filed away in squads of from fifty to three hundred, to their posts of duty and danger in the field.

"There is nothing in all my experience to which I look back with so much pride, and of which I love so well to speak, as the invariable good conduct of our soldier guests, so gentlemanly, quiet and courteous as to cause expressions of surprise from the many visitors who have inspected our Home.

"We have never been so full but that there was room for another. No soldier has been turned away, although there was seldom a night when we had a vacant bed, and hundreds had to lie upon the hall floors, or under the trees, on the beautiful lawn in front of the Home.

"At first, the military authorities looked upon our work with considerable distrust, and questioned somewhat its success and importance. Therefore, its progress and management were vigilantly watched. This, however, soon wore off, and the Home became a popular and indispensable institution, in the estimation of the military of this department. So well pleased were the authorities, that on the 25th December, 1864, Major General DANA, then commandant of this district, issued an order, discontinuing the camp of distribution at Fort Pickering, and ordering all soldiers, in detachments or singly, happening accidentally or otherwise, in the city,

to report at the Soldiers' Home for quarters and rations. Large, two-story barracks, capable of accommodating four hundred men, were erected, adjoining the main building. The Inspector General pronounced them the best planned and best built barracks in the department. A commissioned officer was appointed to furnish transportation for the men at the Home, and a surgeon, to examine the sick for transfer to the general hospital, leaving the entire management of the Home to the Superintendent. From the date of this change, our work became more enlarged and more important, until peace ended the terrible struggle, and soldiers were permitted to return to their own firesides. In addition to shelter and food, hundreds of destitute soldiers have been furnished with clothing from your generous supply of stores, so promptly forwarded when called for. We have never been without medicine, cordials, and farinaceous food, so necessary for the large number of sick, temporarily admitted. It is gratifying to report so small a number of deaths, in view of the great number of invalids cared for.

"It will be observed by the statistics that the hospitality of the Home has been extended not only to the Northern or Union patriot, but also to the freedman and to the rebel soldier. Not unfrequently we have been permitted to witness the Union white and colored soldier and the rebel "Johnny" seated at the same table, enjoying their meals in harmony and good feeling.

"It will also be observed that a large number of delegates of the Christian Commission, freedmen, agents and teachers, and friends and relatives of sick and wounded soldiers, have been entertained. During the last year, the two former classes had to be excluded to make room for the increased number of soldiers. Some of the delegates of the Christian Commission have aided much to impart a Christian influence to our Home. Much good has been accomplished by their frequent interviews with its guests.

"Valuable assistance has been rendered the friends and relatives of

soldiers, when, weary, discouraged and heart-broken, they have come, seeking a sick husband, father, or brother, in some hospital or regiment. Here they have found a resting-place, advice, encouragement, and, when needed, transportation, and have been sent on their way rejoicing.

"It would not only be improper, but unjust, not to speak of the faithfulness and hearty co-operation of the excellent and much esteemed Matron, Mrs. LUCY E. STARR. Her mission has been full of trials and discouragements, yet she has patiently and uncomplainingly struggled through them all; and during my frequent absences, she has cheerfully assumed the entire responsibilities of the Home. Her Christian forbearance, and deep devotion to the cause of humanity, have won the admiration of all who have come within the sphere of her labors.

"During the first part of May last the President of your Commission visited the camp of the poor refugees in this city, and witnessed their distressing condition. Mrs. STARR's attention was thus directed to their sufferings, and immediately her sympathies were deeply enlisted. For weeks she visited, almost daily, the miserable abode of these unfortunate people, administering to the sick, going from pallet to pallet, and with her own hands, giving nourishing food and medicines to many helpless and friendless beings. During the latter part of May, a plan for the organization of a refugee hospital was suggested to Major General C. C. WASHBURN, which met his approval, and he immediately turned over for that purpose the barracks near the Soldiers' Home, which were converted into a hospital, and furnished by your Commission. To this the most destitute cases were transferred. With the assistance of Miss MARSHALL, an excellent and efficient lady, of long experience in hospitals, the institution was made a most useful one, in which much suffering was mitigated, and where some weary souls sped happily away to a better refuge than this world can afford. During the three months of its

existence 44 patients have been admitted, 33 have been returned to their homes or friends, 8 sent to the city hospital, 2 orphans to the Leath Orphan Asylum of this city, and one orphan provided with a home in a good family in the city. The hospital closes on the 1st of September, in accordance with orders from Headquarters, District West Tennessee, by which the building is to be torn down and used for other purposes. The American Union Commission of New York contributed \$150 towards the expenses of the above institution.

"I have the pleasure of submitting herewith testimonial letters from general officers, who have witnessed the operations of the Sanitary Commission, and its good results in this field.

"Most respectfully submitted,

"O. E. WATERS,

"Superintendent."

The following testimonials, from general officers, on duty at Memphis, to the usefulness of the Soldiers' Home in that city, are given, to show that the labors of the Commission for the good of the private soldier, were appreciated in the army, as well as at home:

"HEADQUARTERS, POST DEFENCES,

"MEMPHIS, *August 8, 1865.*

"As the 'Soldiers' Home,' at this post, opened over two years since, under the auspices of the 'Western Sanitary Commission,' is soon to be discontinued, I take pleasure in stating that the Home, as conducted for over eighteen months past, during which time I have been in command in this city, has been of very great service to thousands of soldiers who have stopped there temporarily. The management of the Home, under the superintendence of that excellent Christian gentleman, Mr. O. E. WATERS, has been most admirable. Mr. W. deserves great praise for the faithfulness and efficiency with which he has discharged the various duties of his position.

Many a weary and war-worn soldier, who has been fed and sheltered at the Home, will long remember the kind care and generous attention bestowed upon him while there.

“A. CHETLAIN,

“*Brevet Major General, commanding.*”

“HEADQUARTERS, DISTRICT WEST TENNESSEE,

“MEMPHIS, TENN., August 11, 1865.

“O. E. WATERS, ESQ.,

“*Superintendent Soldiers' Home, Memphis, Tenn.,*

“DEAR SIR: Having been, for a long period, on duty in Memphis, as Assistant Adjutant General of this military district, I have had ample opportunity to witness the progress, and form a just estimate of the public benefits conferred by the Soldier's Home, in this city.

“With the disbanding of our armies, the work of the Sanitary Commission, and the mission of the Soldiers' Home, are accomplished. I cannot too cordially express my opinion of the great uses to the service, and to the nobler purposes of humanity effected by the institution, over which you have long and faithfully presided.

“A vast army of our wayfaring and disabled volunteers have here found needed care and sustenance.

“The thanks of the country are due to the benevolent founders of such an enterprise, and to those whose arduous and faithful efforts have successfully achieved its object.

“I am, sir,

“Very respectfully,

“Your obt serv't,

“W. H. MORGAN,

“*Brevet Brigadier General and A. A. G.*”

The Soldiers' Home at Columbus, Ky., was opened on the 16th of February, 1863, and its history and statistics, down to May 1st, 1864, are given in the history of the Commission and its labors, (page 83), published during that month. From that date till the spring of 1865, it continued under the superintendence of Mr. S. J. ORANGE, assisted by Mrs. ORANGE, as Matron, when it was closed. The labors of Mr. and Mrs. ORANGE were most useful and satisfactory to the Commission, and highly appreciated by the thousands of soldiers who stopped at the Home. Mr. ORANGE also performed many duties of kindness and humanity towards the freedmen at this post, and exerted a truly moral and religious influence upon those who were the objects of his ministry.

The whole number of soldiers entertained at this Home, during a period of over two years that it existed, was one hundred and six thousand four hundred and ninety-six (106,496); the whole number of meals furnished was one hundred and ninety-nine thousand three hundred and twenty-two (199,322), and the whole number of lodgings given was one hundred and four thousand five hundred and eighty-six, (104,586.) The number thus entertained belonged to regiments from Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan, and other States, in similar proportions to those entertained at the Homes in St. Louis and Memphis, in the account of which they are given by States, as well as in the aggregate.

The Soldiers' Home at Vicksburg was opened August 6th, 1863, and its history and statistics, down to May 1st, 1864, are given in the history of the Commission, (page 84), published at that date. It continued, under the superintendence of Mr. N. M. MANN, until its close, in May, 1865.

The whole number of soldiers entertained at this Home, during nearly two years that it existed, was one hundred and fifteen thousand three hundred (115,300). The whole number of meals

furnished was two hundred and nine thousand seven hundred and sixty (209,760), and the whole number of lodgings given was ninety-three thousand four hundred and twelve (93,412). The number of guests belonging to the different States, were in similar proportions to those of the Homes at St. Louis and Memphis, in the account of which they are both given in the aggregate and by States.

The labors of Mr. MANN, both as Superintendent of this Home, and as the general agent of the Commission at Vicksburg, were most useful and satisfactory. In everything connected with his duties he manifested good judgment, accuracy, fidelity to the trusts committed to him, humanity and a Christian spirit. In addition to his other work, aided and supported by the Commission, he established a Refugee Home, superintended it, and made it a successful institution, of great benefit to the poor Union refugees, who found their way to that city. As agent of the Commission, he went, in person, with large supplies of sanitary stores, to meet the returning army of General SHERMAN at Jackson, after its first celebrated march towards the interior of the Confederacy, in which thousands of refugees and freedmen returned with him; and subsequently he took food and clothing to the camps of the "contrabands," as they were called, who had accompanied their deliverer on his triumphant march. In all these labors he proceeded with so much judgment and consideration as to secure the co-operation and respect of the military authorities, the best interests of the Soldiers' Home, and the good of those who were the objects of public charity.

In the management of the Home he was ably assisted by the Matron and Assistant Matron, Mrs. S. A. PLUMMER and Miss HATTIE WISWELL, and by the voluntary labors of Mrs. Governor HARVEY, of Wisconsin, who spent many months at Vicksburg, where she became widely known as the Union soldier's friend.

The Soldiers' Home at Helena, Ark., was established February 11th, 1864, the history and statistics of which are brought down to the following May in the history of the Commission, (page 85), published at that date. It continued, under the superintendence of Rev. JOHN I. HERRICK, Chaplain 29th Wisconsin Infantry, with Mrs. H. A. HAINES, as Matron, until it was closed in the spring of 1865. During the fifteen months it was in existence, the whole number of soldiers entertained was seventeen thousand six hundred and thirty-five (17,635); the whole number of meals furnished was forty thousand and three hundred (40,300), and the whole number of lodgings provided was fifteen thousand eight hundred and ten, (15,810).

Besides his duties as Superintendent of the Home, Chaplain HERRICK acted as an agent of the Commission for the distribution of sanitary stores to the regiments stationed at Helena, to the hospitals, to the refugees and freedmen, and to the Freedmen's Orphan Asylum. In the fulfilment of these duties, his accounts were accurate, and his services highly satisfactory to the Commission and to the commander of the post, Brigadier General BUFORD, who, with his lady, rendered much good counsel and valuable assistance in the work of the Commission at that place, and took a warm interest in the welfare of the soldier, and in the relief of suffering among the freedmen and refugees. The labors of Mrs. HAINES, as Matron of the Home, were also highly satisfactory, and were performed with the utmost fidelity and devotion to the welfare and comfort of the soldiers.

During the autumn and winter of 1864-5, the Commission employed Mr. WM. F. ALLEN, of West Newton, Mass., as a general agent at Helena, to receive and distribute sanitary supplies to the hospitals of that post, and to the regiments stationed there, (there being many sick) to supply the freedmen and refugee hospitals, and to aid in the work of organizing schools and superintending teachers for the freedmen. For several months Mr. ALLEN

performed these duties in a very thorough and satisfactory manner, when he was obliged to return to Massachusetts.

In the month of August, 1864, the Commission established a Soldiers' Home at Duvall's Bluff, on White river, Arkansas, to meet the wants of soldiers going to and from the army of General STEELE, at Little Rock, who generally had to stop for two or three days at this place, awaiting transportation, and for want of accommodation had often to sleep out of doors, exposed to to the malaria of that region; many of whom, being just from the hospitals, were in no condition to endure such exposure. The White river being deeper and navigable for a longer period than the Arkansas, transportation was usually effected by this route, and by railroad from Duvall's Bluff to Little Rock, so that this landing place became an important military post, although exceedingly deficient in comfortable houses or means of entertainment. By means of hospital tents and building material, the Commission erected a good Home, and established a sanitary agency here. It became at once a most useful institution, and afforded lodging and meals, without cost, to several thousand soldiers, during nearly the whole year that it was continued, and the agency for sanitary stores became a necessary medium through which supplies were furnished to the general hospital at this post, and to the regiments of colored and white troops stationed here, and also to refugees and freed-men. Through some neglect of registration, or a failure to forward to the Commission regular reports of the number of guests, we cannot give the precise number entertained, and the number of meals and lodgings furnished, but judging from the accommodations, the supplies furnished, and the number of troops passing, the statistics of this Home would correspond very nearly with those of the Home at Helena. By this estimate, deducting for a three months' shorter duration, we may set down the whole number of guests entertained as fourteen thousand one hundred and

eight (14,108), the whole number of meals furnished as thirty-two thousand two hundred and thirty-eight (32,238), and the whole number of lodgings given as twelve thousand six hundred and forty-eight (12,648).

The first Superintendent of this Home was Mr. T. C. MOODY, who filled the position, and acted also as sanitary agent, satisfactorily, for several months. He was succeeded, in March, 1865, by Mr. E. HACKETT, who discharged faithfully the duties of Superintendent and agent till the month of August following. Mrs. MARY ALLEN, who had been a most excellent hospital nurse, was for a time the active and efficient Matron of the Home. Both the Home and agency, as well as the larger agency at Little Rock, under Mr. GEORGE E. WYETH, were all discontinued in the summer of 1865.

The agency at Little Rock was established, on the taking of that place by General STEELE, of which an account is given in the history of the Commission, (page 93); and a large supply of sanitary stores was kept constantly on hand there, for distribution to the hospitals, as needed, and to other neighboring posts in Arkansas—at Pine Bluff and Fort Smith, and even at Duvall's Bluff and the Soldiers' Home there, as well as to the refugees and freedmen at those stations—from the fall of 1863 till after the close of the war. In this work Mr. WYETH acted with efficiency and fidelity to the interests committed to him, and accompanied General STEELE on his march to Camden and his retreat to Little Rock, rendering valuable assistance to the surgeons in the care of the sick and wounded, at Pine Bluff, Fort Smith and Little Rock, and re-establishing the agency at the last place.

The extent of the benefit conferred on our soldiers by the soldiers' homes, sustained and conducted by the Western Sanitary Commission, may be still further appreciated by so far consolidating the reports of them as to show how many have shared their

hospitality during the war. Adding their statistics together, we find that these homes have entertained four hundred and twenty-one thousand six hundred and sixteen soldiers, (421,616); have furnished nine hundred and eighty-two thousand five hundred and ninety-two (982,592) meals, and four hundred and ten thousand two hundred and fifty-two (410,252) lodgings, without charge. The Home at St. Louis is still continued, and entertains an average of two thousand guests per month, being as useful and necessary as at any former period.

CHAPTER IV.

REFUGEES AND FREEDMEN—STATISTICS—REFUGEES AT ST. LOUIS—REFUGEE ORPHANS—TOUCHING INCIDENTS—A CASE OF PERSECUTION—REFUGEES AT PILOT KNOB—AT ROLLA—AT SPRINGFIELD, MO.—AT CAPE GIRARDEAU—AT LEAVENWORTH AND FORT SCOTT—AT VICKSBURG—AT HELENA, ARK.—AT NASHVILLE, TENN.—AT CHATTANOOGA—AT LITTLE ROCK, ARK.—LETTER OF GOV. MURPHY—REFUGEE AND FREEDMEN'S HOME, ESTABLISHED ON BROADWAY, ST. LOUIS—LETTER OF MR. YEATMAN TO MR. ODIORNE—NATIONAL BUREAU OF REFUGEES AND FREEDMEN—LETTER OF MR. YEATMAN TO GENERAL HOWARD—LETTER TO BRIGADIER GENERAL SPRAGUE—LETTER OF THE SECRETARY TO GENERAL HOWARD—LIST OF ARTICLES DISTRIBUTED TO REFUGEES AND FREEDMEN—LABORS FOR FREEDMEN—ACKNOWLEDGMENT—ESTABLISHMENT OF A FREEDMEN'S ORPHAN'S HOME IN ST. LOUIS—INDENTURE—SCHOOLS FOR COLORED CHILDREN IN ST. LOUIS—DONATION FROM SWITZERLAND PENNY FUND—LETTER OF MR. YEATMAN TO MR. JACCARD—OTHER DONATIONS—FREEDMEN'S NATIONAL MONUMENT.

AN account of the work of the Western Sanitary Commission for the Union refugees and the freedmen of the South, down to the holding of the Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair, in May, 1864, is given in the history of the Commission, Chapter X, pages 110-128, published at that time, and a brief outline of its continuance at the time of the invasion of Missouri by the rebel General PRICE, in the fall of 1864, has already been given in these pages. It now remains to add, in this chapter, the statistics of this work, receipts and expenditures, and such particulars concerning refugee homes, freedmen's hospitals, schools for the children of both these classes, and the distribution of clothing and sanitary stores to these people, as have not already been given.

On the 1st of November, 1864, the Commission published a pamphlet report of forty-four pages, on the white refugees from the South, from which we gather several facts, essential to this chapter. After giving an account of the early labors of Mr. JOHN S. CAVENDER (now deceased), in behalf of the Union refugees in St.

Louis, the establishment and continuance of the Refugee Home at 29 Walnut street, for one year, from September 1st, 1863, to September 1st, 1864, the constant arrival of refugees from Missouri and the slave States bordering on the Mississippi river, and the accommodations allowed them by the Government, at Benton Barracks, the following statement is given:

The number of destitute Union refugees received at Benton Barracks up to the present date (October 26th, 1864,) is 104 men, 222 women and 421 children, total 767, which, added to the number received and provided for at the Refugee Home in the city, from September 1st, 1863, to September 1st, 1864, makes a total of 2931 refugees assisted in connection with the labors of the Western Sanitary Commission during this period, not including those aided by Mr. CAVENDER's labors during the first year and a half of the war.

The rations allowed by the Government to destitute Union refugees and freedmen's families, not able to provide for themselves, was specially designated by an order of the War Department, as follows:

"The following is hereby established as the ration for issue by the Subsistence Department to adult refugees, and to adult colored persons, commonly called "contrabands," when they are not employed at labor by the Government, and who may have no means of subsisting themselves, viz: 10 oz. of pork or bacon, or 1 lb. of fresh beef; 1 lb. of corn meal five times a week, and 1 lb. of flour or soft bread or 12 oz. of hard bread twice a week; and to every 100 rations, 10 lbs. beans, peas, or hominy, 8 lbs. of sugar, 2 qts. of vinegar, 8 oz. of candles, 2 lbs. of soap, 2 lbs. of salt, and 15 lbs. of potatoes when practicable. To children under fourteen years of age, half rations will be issued; and to women and children, roasted rye coffee, at the rate of 10 lbs., or tea at the rate of 15 oz., to every 100 rations."

An order from the Headquarters of the Department of the

Missouri required that the Chaplains, to whom this work of charity was usually assigned, should confine it to those who, without this aid, would be "in danger of starvation;" and that they should certify on the back of the provision returns that the persons drawn for were "unable to work." It also required that the relief given should be "temporary," and not permanent.

The whole number of refugees for whom transportation was obtained from the Government, and from the railroads and steamboats by the Commission, to assist them to reach their friends, or places of employment, in the free Western States, from October 17th, 1863, to Oct. 25th, 1864, was 202 men, 493 women, and 682 children, making a total of 1377 persons, besides many young children under four years of age, who passed without any fare being charged.

Besides assisting the refugees in these several ways, the Western Sanitary Commission furnished large supplies of clothing—thousands of coats, pantaloons, under-clothing, women's dresses, shawls, shoes, comforters, and other articles of bedding—to the more destitute. It helped many families to commence housekeeping, purchasing for them cooking-stoves and the most necessary articles of furniture, so that they might support themselves, and not become a charge to the Government. It also established a school at Benton Barracks for the children of the refugees, under Miss SAMANTHA MONROE as teacher, where 140 children received instruction from June 1st, 1864, to February 1st, 1865.

In all these labors in behalf of the refugees in this city, the Commission enjoyed the friendly sanction and active co-operation of all our department and district commanders—Major Generals HALLECK, CURTIS, SCHOFIELD, ROSECRANS, DODGE and POPE, and Brigadier Generals FISK and EWING—who granted every reasonable request, in furnishing quarters and authorizing the issue of fuel and rations to all who were unable to provide for themselves, and who must otherwise have suffered or perished.

Of all the refugees who applied to the Commission for assistance, not more than *one-tenth* were able to read and write. They uniformly professed to be loyal to the Union, and many of them gave touching accounts of the manner in which they had been persecuted, driven from their homes by guerrillas, and their husbands murdered, sometimes before their eyes. The picture of their sufferings, on arriving at St. Louis, was often so sad and distressing as to draw tears from eyes not used to weep. On a single boat from the White river, in Arkansas, we sometimes had an arrival of fifty families of refugees, old, decrepid men, sickly and feeble women, puny and diseased children, clothed in rags, lying on bundles of miserable bedding, landed on the levee, without food or money to procure either food or a place of shelter for a single night. This happened one day last summer, towards evening, and teams could not be had that night to convey them to Benton Barracks. The President of the Commission (Mr. YEATMAN) went and provided them with bread and coffee for supper and breakfast, and they remained all night on the levee, sleeping there with no shelter but the starry sky. The next day a dozen Quartermasters' teams conveyed them to the refugee quarters at Benton Barracks; rations were procured for them; the sick (being full half the number,) were taken to a ward of the general hospital, set apart for the purpose; and the Commission furnished shoes and clothing to the most naked and destitute, and articles of necessity for the hospital ward, with a matron and cook to assist in its management.

As these people recovered their health, they were assisted with transportation to reach homes in the country, and directed to places of employment; thus making room for others, subsequently arriving in the same condition. Many deaths, however, occurred of the more feeble and sickly; and sometimes whole families of orphans were left on our hands, by the death of their parents while here.

Since the 1st of August, 1863, forty refugee orphan children have

been sent by the Commission to the Mission Free School, on Eighth street, established and supported by the Church of the Messiah, (Rev. Dr. ELIOT,) in this city, and to the Protestant Orphan Asylum, on Seventh street. Here they were cared for; and, if sick, retained till they were restored to health; instruction was given them in the daily school, and homes provided for them, by indenture to suitable persons applying for them at these institutions.

A touching incident occurred last summer, in the case of a family arriving from the White river country, in Arkansas. A mother and her children were landed on the levee, with their few articles of bedding; and, not being informed that she could be assisted at the sanitary rooms by the superintendant of refugees, and being sick, she went, with her children, except the oldest boy, directly to Benton Barracks, leaving him behind to take care of some bedding and household goods that she could not take with her, and telling him to wait there for her return the next day, when she would come for him. The little fellow stayed all night on the levee with the goods, and all the next day, without food; but no mother came. At last he was found by the agents and President of the Commission, and the sad information given him that his mother had died the next morning after she reached Benton Barracks. He gave way at once to heart-broken sobs and tears, and would not be comforted. He, with the other children, was afterwards taken to the Mission Free School. Another touching case also occurred, in which a mother and eight children were sent to the refugee hospital at Benton Barracks, where they all died, except three of the children, who were also sent to the Mission Free School.

Still another incident occurred, of much interest, in connection with the refugee orphans. A mother, from Arkansas, having two daughters, died at the Refugee Home, and left them on our hands. They were taken to the Mission Free School, and informed the

Matron that they had an aunt in Wisconsin, who was in good circumstances, and would give them a home if they could get to her, but they did not know in what part of Wisconsin she lived. She had once visited their parents' home in Arkansas, and they remembered her name. The Secretary of the Commission sent an advertisement to the Wisconsin papers, which met the eyes of persons who knew their aunt, who was dead; and the executor of the estate wrote that a farm worth two thousand dollars was left, to which these children were joint heirs with a nephew living on the farm. Transportation was immediately procured for them, a little money given to pay expenses on the way, and they were sent forward to their new homes.

The following case of rebel persecution will afford an instance, out of thousands, of what these people often suffer in the South, and on their journey to a place of refuge: Last summer there came to the Refugee Home, a mother, with her four little children, trying to reach her friends in Kentucky. She was an intelligent woman, of the better class of refugees. She said she had lived near Jacksonport, White river, Arkansas; that her husband owned a farm, well stocked with cattle, horses and provisions, and was in prosperous circumstances. He was known as a Union man, and often had to lie out in the woods—called in the South “the brush”—for weeks, to escape being conscripted in the rebel army or murdered. Sometimes the guerrillas would come and take away whatever suited them of his property—his horses, cattle, and corn—as they pleased, and even the bed-clothes from the beds, and the family apparel. At last they caught him once at home, where he had come to see his little family, and spend a few days with them under his own roof. They called him out into his door yard, told him he was a d—d traitor to the South, tore him away with violent hands from his weeping wife and children, marched him a

short distance down the road, and murdered him in cold blood, the report of their murderous weapons reaching his own doors.

After this they returned, and told his weeping widow that she had better pack up and go to Pilot Knob, where the Feds would take care of her, or they would burn her house over her head. Some days later, she yoked up the last ox team that had been left them, and putting her bedding and her children in the wagon, with their clothing and some of her husband's apparel that she wished to keep, she started for Pilot Knob, a distance of about two hundred miles. Traveling about fifteen miles a day, when she had been nearly a week upon the road, and her little stock of corn-meal and bacon was nearly exhausted, she was met by a band of rebel marauders, who stopped her in the road, and inquired where she was going. The poor woman, being much alarmed, answered that her husband was dead, and she was trying to go to her friends in Kentucky.

"Well," said they, "what have you got here?" and they began to rummage the wagon, from which they took her deceased husband's clothes, and her bed quilts, and the corn-meal and bacon that was left, and then they unhitched the yoke of steers from the old wagon, and said to her :

"We cannot allow you to take these things into the Federal lines. You say your husband is dead ; how did he die ? Put to death for being a traitor ? G—d d—n him, served him right. And you are going to your friends in Kentucky ? Union people, eh ! Then you can travel on foot to Pilot Knob, and the Feds 'll take care of you there. They'll give you more blankets and clothes, and give you rations besides."

The poor woman pleaded with tears, her little children crying around her, that they would leave her the team, and the bedding, and the little food she had, and let her go on her way ; but they jeered at her, mocked and laughed at her distress, and

took her team and everything she had, and left her with her children crying in the road ; after which she pursued her way on foot, with the little children, to Pilot Knob, and received free passage by the Iron Mountain railroad to St. Louis.

On their arrival at the Refugee Home they were kindly cared for, and assisted to reach their friends in Kentucky, where the poor woman and her children, as we afterwards learned by letter, found her own father's house, and a welcome to the paternal home.

Hundreds of instances like this, differing only in the kind and degree of persecution, might be narrated, but this must suffice.

The number of Union refugees at Pilot Knob was always very large, ranging from one thousand to fifteen hundred persons, depending on aid from the Government in rations and places of shelter. During the month of July, 1864, the number of persons assisted in this manner was 1346, and in August, 1180. They were, with a few exceptions, poor people from southeast Missouri and Arkansas, ignorant, unable to read and write, accustomed to live in squalid wretchedness, the poor "white trash" of the South, a class from which the rebels largely recruited their armies by conscription, and left their families, widowed and orphaned, to find their way to our lines to save themselves from starvation. They uniformly claimed to be Union people, were willing enough to take the oath of allegiance, but did not really understand what was essential to loyalty, or the merits of the conflict in which we were engaged. Nevertheless they were human beings ; and, although in the lowest stage of civilization, they were thrown upon our charity, and with their children had to be provided for, improved as much as possible, or be left to perish. Another and better class of them, however, had been faithful to the Government under every form of persecution, and were not only refugees, but soldiers' families, who deserved all the sympathy and aid that could be given. No class suffered more than these, the special objects of rebel

atrocities and outrage, and none were more loyal to their country's cause.

The number of rations issued by the Government to these poor destitute people at Pilot Knob, during the month of August, 1864, was 16,915, and the value of them, \$1,691.50, which is a fair average of the charity of the Government at that post for nearly the whole period of the war. These charities were continued till October 1st, 1865.

During the winter of 1863-4, the Western Sanitary Commission forwarded to Chaplain A. WRIGHT, then superintendent of refugees at that post, large supplies of clothing and shoes for distribution, glazed window-sash for new refugee buildings, and axes for women to cut their own fuel, (which many of them did that winter, carrying it from the woods on their own shoulders,) and medicines for the sick, of whom there were many at this post.

Active service was also rendered in their behalf by Brigadier General CLINTON B. FISK, then commanding the District of St. Louis, and his noble wife, who procured several hundred dollars' worth of material for clothing, as a donation from the merchants of St. Louis, went down with it to Pilot Knob, and attended to its distribution in person. It is impossible to estimate the value of the contributions sent to this post for these people, but it is known to have proved a most timely and providential relief to them.

During the winter, spring and summer of 1865, the Western Sanitary Commission continued to send clothing to this post, for the destitute, to be given out by Chaplains S. T. McNEILLY and C. H. LOVEJOY.

The number of *colored* refugees or freedmen, assisted at Pilot Knob, in the same way, during July, 1864, was 160, and in August, 125; the number of rations issued to them in August of the same year, was 1280, and the value, \$128.00. Yet there were about as many colored refugees at Pilot Knob as whites, but they were far

more self-supporting, and took much better care of themselves. During the summer, colored refugee women, of their own accord, planted their door yards with vegetables, and kept them looking clean, and their children healthy, while the white refugees utterly neglected any such efforts to help themselves, or improve their condition. Such have been the paralyzing effects upon the industry of the poor whites of the South by their contact with the system of slavery, rendering them a far less promising class of our population than the negroes, whom they so much despise, and affect to consider so much inferior to themselves.

During the month of October, 1864, the poor refugees of Pilot Knob were peeled and scattered by the capture of that post by the rebel General STERLING PRICE and his ruffian hordes, who, for a time, occupied it. Hundreds of refugees from that place, who assisted Brigadier General THOMAS EWING to defend it, came to St. Louis, applying to the Western Sanitary Commission for aid, stating that they had been obliged to leave their families—some of them secreted in the woods, others in rebel hands—and escape for their lives. On one day sixty men, with their German pastor from Pilot Knob, came, some of them, without jackets, or shoes, or a blanket, only half clothed, and received additions of clothing and some rations to subsist upon till they could go back and find their families. Many families of women and children also found their way to St. Louis during that month, and were provided by the Commission and the Government, with shelter and rations, and by the Commission with clothing, to protect their persons, and bedding for a covering at night. The Western Sanitary Commission also sent a good supply of clothing to Chaplain T. C. McNEILLY, superintendent of refugees at Pilot Knob, for distribution to the destitute at that place, the post being afterwards re-occupied by our troops.

During the war, Rolla was a city of refuge for many refugees from Southwest Missouri. An average of three hundred persons

were sheltered and rationed here by the Government all the time, and thousands reached this post and passed on to St. Louis to scatter themselves through the free States of the West. In August, there were two hundred families here drawing rations from the Government, and many sick.

The refugees of this post were visited by Mr. YEATMAN, the President of the Commission, during the first summer, and finding many refugee children there, with no public school they could attend, the Commission, on his return, established a school for them, with Mrs. H. F. HOES as teacher, and subsequently employed Miss ALICE F. ROYCE, from Wisconsin, as an assistant, the school having reached the number of one hundred and fifty pupils. This school continued in successful operation, doing an important work, until the close of the war.

A liberal supply of clothing for the destitute was sent to this place, and distributed, through a committee of ladies, to the most needy. Much assistance was rendered in this by the superintendent of refugees at Rolla, Chaplain A. H. TUCKER, and by Surgeon M. P. HANSON and Dr. ROBINSON.

In a letter of Mr. TUCKER to Rev. J. G. FORMAN, the Secretary of the Commission and superintendent of refugees, dated August 20th, 1864, he thus describes the condition of things :

“Refugees are constantly coming in from the southwest. There are now over two hundred destitute families here, partly subsisted by Government. There is a great deal of sickness among them, and assistance, by way of something nourishing for the sick to eat, is much needed. The school books and clothing were duly received, and, according to Mr. YEATMAN’s orders, turned over to Dr. HANSON and the Ladies’ Refugee Aid Society.”

A school for the children of freedmen was afterwards established by the Northwestern Freedmen’s Aid Commission, under Miss ROYCE.

At the distant outpost of Springfield, Missouri, thousands of refugees received temporary aid from the Government, in rations from the Commissary, and in clothing and money sent from the Commission to Chaplain FREDERICK H. WINES, formerly superintendent of these people at that post. They were not encouraged to remain there, and generally found their way in Government wagons to Rolla, and thence by cars to St. Louis, scattering themselves in the free States of the West, where they could find employment and a livelihood. Yet the number constantly at Springfield, recruited by new arrivals from the troubled regions of Arkansas, was always large.

A home and school for orphan children, made such by the war, many of them refugees, was established here by benevolent ladies, in which the Hon. Mrs. JOHN S. PHELPS has taken an active part. This school has been much assisted by the Western Sanitary Commission, which has aided it with funds, through Mrs. PHELPS, and provided an excellent teacher in Mrs. MARY A. WHITTAKER, who receives her salary from the Commission.

Many of the families left destitute in Southwest Missouri have lost their husbands and fathers in the service of the Government; for the southwest portion of the State had fewer slaves, and was more loyal than the slaveholding region along the Missouri river, and the Platte river country of Western Missouri.

The following extracts of letters from Chaplain WINES, will help to show the condition of the refugees of this part of the country, at that time :

“SPRINGFIELD, Mo., *June 8, 1864.*

“JAMES E. YEATMAN, Esq.,

“MY DEAR SIR : I write to speak of the necessity that exists, that the Western Sanitary Commission should do something for the multitudes of refugees who flock to this place from Arkansas and

Texas. They come in by scores daily. Every train from the South comes loaded with them, and those who have wagons of their own, come in trains by themselves. One hundred wagon loads of them crossed the White river at Forsyth one week, not long ago.

“These poor creatures are, for the most part, entirely destitute. The Government does nothing more for them than to keep them from starving. They are furnished with a soldier’s half ration each of flour, bacon, beans, and hominy; and when they die, the Government provides coffins for them. Coffee and sugar are not furnished, because, if they were, multitudes would draw rations to obtain these luxuries, who could support themselves very well, without help. No clothing of any kind is given them. They are, however, attended gratuitously, and furnished with medicine, in case of sickness.

“As an ordinary thing, refugees are not allowed to remain at this post, on account of the impossibility of transporting provisions for such a multitude as would then be gathered together here, but are sent to some post upon a river or railroad.

“Oftentimes a little money would relieve a great deal of suffering, if judiciously expended. For instance, there have been many who could have made crops, but could not purchase seed-corn. The Government cannot furnish seed-corn. For the want of a few dollars, many have gone on, who would otherwise have become producers instead of consumers. Often, in case of sickness, and especially of childbirth, a little money would procure necessary delicacies in the way of diet, which might save lives otherwise certain to be lost. Often a man or woman settles down to make a crop, but while the crop is growing, cannot obtain both food and clothing. A little clothing furnished him would take him off the Government in point of dependence for food, which he could then earn by his own exertions.

"There is no fund here for the relief of such cases. Money is imperatively needed for them. General SANBORN says that \$50,000 would not be too much to relieve the distress of the community. Everything is scarce and high.

"Over \$1,500 was sent from here to the Sanitary Fair. It has been the universal expectation that all this, and more, would be returned here for the relief of refugees. I write to inquire what the Commission proposes to do for us.

"Hoping for an early reply, I am, with sentiments of sincere esteem,

"Your obedient servant,

"FRED. H. WINES,

"Chaplain and Superintendent of Refugees."

In subsequent letters, Chaplain WINES says: "I thank you sincerely, in the name of the refugees, for your kindness in authorizing me to draw on you for \$250 for their relief."—*June 24, 1864.*

"I wish to express to you my sincere thanks, and the thanks of the sufferers at and around this post, for the relief which you have sent them in the shape of goods. * * * The Western Sanitary Commission is doing a noble work, and every well-wisher of his country must wish it God-speed. * * * There is much sickness here, and the doctors frequently apply to me for delicacies for their indigent patients. * * * The supplies sent to the hospital were received and duly appreciated. I suppose that the surgeon has duly acknowledged them. They relieve a great deal of suffering. * * * The refugees coming to this post, are, almost without exception, soldiers' families,—the destitute wives and children of the U. S. Volunteers, from the State of Arkansas. They have been driven from their homes; they have been robbed of all which they once possessed; they have been set down in our midst, homeless, friendless, and penniless. Hundreds of them lie, day and night, by the roadside, exposed

to the scorching sun and the pelting storm, without so much as a blanket to shield them from the sky. * * * I ask where, upon earth, can families be found whose necessities are so pressing as those of the naked and famishing wretches, who arrive here by hundreds with every Government train from the South? They are not to be found."—*August 2d, 1864.*

Many refugees from Southeast Missouri also reached Cape Girardeau, and were aided with rations from the Government. Chaplain N. N. WOOD, D. D., was superintendent there, and his report for July and August, 1864, shows a monthly average of 340 persons assisted at that post. Many of them, also, had husbands and fathers in the United States military service, or were widowed and orphaned by the war. A liberal supply of clothing was sent by the Western Sanitary Commission to this place for these suffering people. Chaplain E. O'BRIEN succeeded Chaplain WOOD, and large supplies of clothing and medicines were sent to him for distribution. A physician was also sustained here for a time by the Commission.

The number of destitute Union refugees arriving at Leavenworth and Fort Scott, Kansas, was very large, amounting to thousands, and Mr. J. R. BROWN, agent of the Western Sanitary Commission at Leavenworth, and Chaplain CHARLES REYNOLDS, at Fort Scott, were indefatigable in their efforts to relieve these poor people, to find for them support, and to assist them on their way. Being without sufficient means of shelter, they procured worn-out and condemned tents from the Government, to shelter them from the sun and storm, issued to them clothing and sanitary stores, and procured Government rations for their subsistence.

At Leavenworth, Mr. BROWN established schools for the children of the colored and white refugees, and had several teachers; one of whom, Mrs. NETTIE C. CONSTANT, was supported in her work by this Commission, besides the general aid given to Mr. BROWN

in his great work. The Commission sent to him over one thousand school books for his schools, many boxes of clothing, a large supply of medicines, and appropriated one hundred dollars a month towards his work, besides several special appropriations.

The following communication relates mostly to the colored refugees, sometimes called "contrabands," but coming under the same charity :

"LEAVENWORTH, *September 1, 1864.*

"JAMES E. YEATMAN, ESQ.,

"President Western Sanitary Commission.

"DEAR SIR: Enclosed, you have my report of receipts and disbursements for August. We have our Freedmen's Home under full operation, have a school in one part of one of the buildings, and can already see the benefit of our enterprise in many ways. Our plan, in short, is to take in the worn-down and helpless, just up from below, suffering with all sorts of diseases induced by every exposure by the way. Our wash-house is the first apartment to enter, where all filthy and infected clothing is removed, and a thorough cleansing takes place. The office is the next place, where names and particulars are recorded. Then the dining room is opened, and wholesome food is furnished, and then rest is allowed, and in one or two days, these tired, wretched beings, look and act like men, women, and children. We advertise to furnish help of every kind desired, and when we have calls for it, we know just who are in condition to go out, and such are called into the office, and at first sight present a wholesome appearance, and are almost sure to please. Then, again, persons wishing to hire help, come there, expecting to pay a reasonable price, and put themselves under obligations, which they would not feel, if they had picked up their help in the street, or it had been urged on them by some poor, starved seeker for work. Then, again, we can

feed, doctor, teach, and shelter them, at less expense, in this way, than any other.

"I draw for \$400.00 of the Boston fund, to fit up the establishment, and for \$100.00, your monthly appropriation. After this, I shall try to use only enough to keep the institution going.

"Yours, very respectfully,

"J. R. BROWN."

"LEAVENWORTH, *September 10, 1864.*

"Rev. J. G. FORMAN,

"Secretary Western Sanitary Commission,

"RESPECTED BROTHER: I send you, with this, copies of letters, showing you a part of our work, better than I can tell you in my own language. * * * * * All our hospitals are well filled, but not to that extent that we should expect, from the exposure of our soldiers, and the extreme hot weather of the present season. Our Freedmen's Home works to a charm. Oh, how I wish that we could establish others like it! We must do so, if possible. Tents, and relief for the *refugees*, have been sent to Fort Scott. I find, in Mrs. CONSTANT, a most valuable and agreeable co-worker, and she cannot fail to do good.

"Yours, very truly,

"J. R. BROWN."

"FORT SCOTT, KANSAS, *September 25, 1864.*

"Bro. J. R. BROWN,

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"Agent Sanitary Commission:

"I send you a condensed account of my disbursements for the past season for freedmen and refugees. Number of women, 968; children, 1,292. Comforts, 463; sheets, 220; skirts, 318; shirts, 2,047; drawers, 397; dresses, 196; pairs shoes, 348; socks, 967. There are quite a number of women and children here that are

very needy of clothing, and we have not a suit to give them. Many have died during the season, and many more are sick, and must die from exposure in coming up from Dixie. Since they landed here, for weeks they were without tents, until you sent them some from Leavenworth. Since that they have had comfortable quarters; but they must have clothing for the winter, or perish with cold.

"The above report does not embrace all that I have received from you and St. Louis, for there were hundreds of articles not worth recording.

"Before I close, I must tell you that many of these poor women and children have not a dress to their backs, nor clothing to hide their nakedness. From the fact that everything is so high, it is impossible for them to clothe themselves; therefore, we ask you to lay this distressed state of suffering before the friends of humanity, and tell them not to be weary in well doing, for in due time they shall reap, if they faint not.

"Yours, truly,

"T. T. INSLEY."

The work was carried on at Leavenworth and Fort Scott, through the winter of 1865, with great benefit to the suffering refugees and freedmen. Among the agents of the Commission, none was more faithful, competent, and devoted to the interests of humanity than Mr. BROWN. The other agents belonged to the Government, and acted in co-operation with him.

In the spring of 1864, the number of Union refugees arriving at Vicksburg, from the interior of Mississippi, in extreme suffering, destitution, and sickness, was so great, that the agent of the Western Sanitary Commission, Mr. N. M. MANN, felt it to be an imperative necessity that efforts should be made for their relief. The co-operation of the military authorities was solicited by him, and with the aid of the Commission, a refugee home was opened at that post, which was maintained in successful operation to the end of

the war. An outfit of furniture, bedding, kitchen utensils, &c., was sent from the Commission, a matron was provided, and a school for the refugee children opened in connection with the Home, a teacher being also sent by the Commission for this service. The first teacher sent was Miss G. D. CHAPMAN, of Exeter, Maine, whose health failed after a few months of faithful service, and she was obliged to return home.

In the fall of 1864, the Commission sent Miss SARAH E. M. LOVEJOY, of Princeton, Ill., daughter of the late Hon. OWEN LOVEJOY, M. C., to take charge of this school, and it was soon in successful operation again. The number of pupils was sufficient to make a large school, and the work of educating and elevating the offspring of these poor people was deemed of the first importance, as they must hereafter blend with the higher and better civilization of the free States, or become the vagrants and pests of society.

The work of the Commission, for refugees and freedmen, at Vicksburg, continued to the end of the war. A portion of the furniture and supplies of the Soldiers' Home was turned over for their benefit, and for the use of the asylums established for their children. An outfit of one hundred beds, and other articles, was given to the Freedmen's Orphans' Home, the care of which was assumed by the National Freedmen's Relief Commission, of New York. A notice of the efficiency and worth of its agents, at this post, is given, under the head of the Soldiers' Home. It also found in Messrs. WILLIAM L. MARSH and H. R. FOSTER, agents of the National Freedmen's Relief Commission, most efficient and worthy co-operative agents at Vicksburg and Natchez, men of high moral and religious principle, and thoroughly devoted to the work of aiding and elevating the freedmen.

At Helena, Ark., there was a large number of destitute Union refugees, during the last two years of the war, and important aid was given to them, through the agents of the Commission and the

humane labors of Brigadier General BUFORD and his lady, who, for many months, received and distributed large quantities of clothing, sent them by the Western Sanitary Commission, and by friends in New England. The Commission also provided a Refugee Home at this post, in charge of Mrs. SARAH COOMBS, a benevolent lady of Helena, and much good has been accomplished through her labors. It continued to send clothing and sanitary stores, for the needy, to Mrs. COOMBS, till the summer of 1865; it sent an agent, Mr. WM. F. ALLEN, to assist the freedmen; and in August, 1865, it received eighty freedmen's orphans from Helena, and placed them in its Freedmen's Orphans' Home, at St. Louis.

At Nashville, Tenn., large numbers of Union refugees were congregated, during the last two years of the war, and on application of Mrs. MARY R. FOGG, of the Refugee Relief Society, the Commission forwarded a generous supply of clothing, for distribution there, in August and September, 1864.

The following acknowledgment of this donation was received by the agent of the Commission at Nashville :

"NASHVILLE, TENN., *June 22, 1864.*

"MR. A. CLARK,

"Agent Western Sanitary Commission,

"DEAR SIR: The following resolution was passed at a meeting of the Nashville Refugee Aid Society, held to-day :

"*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Nashville Refugee Aid Society be tendered to the Western Sanitary Commission, for its generous donation of clothing, for the use of the unfortunate and destitute in our midst.

"JOHN M. GANT,

"Secretary."

During the month of May, 1864, an application was made by Rev. HENRY DOUGLAS, of Chattanooga, recommended by Major General

W. T. SHERMAN, commanding the western division of the United States Army, for aid to the refugees and destitute people of that locality, and a donation of over two hundred barrels of flour, beef and potatoes, was forwarded, through the agent of the Commission at that post.

At Little Rock, Ark., great numbers of refugees congregated, driven from the rebellious portions of the State. During the summer of 1864, an urgent appeal came from the Arkansas Relief Committee, of Little Rock, and from the Governor of that State, for assistance to the destitute inhabitants and refugees.

In a report of the above committee to Governor MURPHY, August 2d, they say :

“The refugees now here are from the several counties of the State most devastated by a guerrilla warfare. We have heard of hundreds of starving families in the country, whom the committee are unable to reach, most of whom have been made thus desolate and destitute by the savage butchery of their natural protectors, for which they have no redress. A fearful responsibility rests somewhere, either upon those who initiated the war which has produced the present state of suffering, or those who, having the means of alleviating their distressed condition in the future, do it not. These walking skeletons, now fleeing from starvation and death, are not responsible for their fall from a good estate. Unless provision is made, speedily, to strengthen the hand of charity, it is to be feared that a fall and winter famine will so much depopulate your State, that little, besides a bare territory, will be left to govern.

“After careful inquiry and investigation, we find that nearly, if not all, the suffering and destitution is occasioned by, or is the result of, their being what is called ‘Union families,’ or families of Union men. Very many of the families receiving aid are the wives and children of soldiers now engaged in the Union service,

many of them natives of the soil, and others who have long been amongst our best adopted citizens."

The following letter of the Governor of the State to the President of the Commission, shows still further the terrible destitution that existed in this afflicted State :

"EXECUTIVE OFFICE, LITTLE ROCK, ARK., *August 22, 1864.*

"JAMES E. YEATMAN, ESQ.,

"DEAR SIR: Enclosed, I send you the report of the refugee committee. It gives a very imperfect conception of the extent of the destitution and suffering pervading the entire State. Since STEELE'S retreat, the army has occupied a few posts; but all, beyond the pickets, has been held at will by the rebels, and their conscription has swept the country, up to the picket lines, accompanied by the murder and pillage of all the loyal element outside of the pickets. Families, stripped of everything, have fled to the military posts, and to other States, for protection. Nothing, scarcely, has been raised for food, in the State. Unless those portions of our country which God has blessed with peace and security come at once to our aid, Arkansas will be a wilderness. May we not appeal to our brethren of other States to come to our aid, and save us from destruction ?

"With great respect, your friend,

"ISAAC MURPHY."

The Commission sent large and liberal supplies of clothing, sanitary stores, vegetables, medicines for the sick, &c., both for refugees and freedmen, to this post, till the close of the war.* Up to November, 1864, the Commission had expended, in cash, for these

* See letter of Mr. YEATMAN, further on, concerning the refugees at this post, at Duvall's Bluff, and at Memphis, and his account of the relief given at the time of his visit, May, 1865.

poor people, \$26,400, in the purchase of supplies for them, and \$10,000 in clothing and material for clothing, outfit for Refugee Homes, &c. These expenditures were made at St. Louis, Leavenworth, Fort Scott, Springfield, Rolla, Pilot Knob, Cape Girardeau, Helena, Vicksburg, Natchez, Duvall's Bluff, Pine Bluff, and Little Rock.

Besides the above amount, the issue of the charity ration of the Government, in St. Louis, was made through the Commission, and from September 1st, 1863, to November 1st, 1864, about fifteen thousand rations were issued, valued at \$3,000. This does not include the issues of the Government rations at other points besides St. Louis.

The foregoing statistics and facts, were mostly of the date of November 1st, 1864. From that time until the end of the war, in May, 1865, families of refugees continued to arrive from all parts of the South, as far as Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas, in their usually helpless and miserable condition, coming up the river on Government boats, or from the interior by railroad, as objects of charity.

The accommodations at Benton Barracks being unsuited to their condition, the Western Sanitary Commission addressed a communication to the military authorities on the subject, in November, 1864, and the building, formerly known as the Lawson Hospital, on Broadway, fitted up for this purpose by the Government, being empty, was secured for a Refugee and Freedmen's Home, and made capable of receiving six hundred persons. It was entirely furnished by the Commission, and placed under the superintendence of the Secretary, Rev. J. G. FORMAN, who, as a Chaplain, was also assigned to the same duties by the department commander.

The Ladies' Union Aid Society, and Ladies' Freedmen's Relief Association, also gave their co-operation in the management of the institution. Mrs. H. M. WEED was appointed Matron; and Miss JONES and Miss CATHARINE DUNNING, for a time, were in charge of the

Freedmen's department of the Home. Miss RICHARDSON was afterwards Assistant Matron. Miss SAMANTHA MONROE, Miss PEDUZZI, and Miss ESTHER ORTON fulfilled the duties of teachers to the white and colored refugee schools in the building; Mrs. MARY A. WHITTAKER kept the registry of the Home; detached soldiers took charge of the commissary department of the building, and filled the stations of steward, guards, watchmen, &c. The Hospital department of the Home was in charge of surgeons, employed for the purpose by the Medical Director, and was frequently visited by Surgeon WM. CARPENTER, U. S. V., Medical Director of the district.

For nearly six months, from February 1st, 1865, to July 10th, 1865, this institution gave shelter, food, medical care, clothing, and instruction to several thousand refugees, freed people, and their children, commencing with six hundred, continuing so for the greater part of the winter, and gradually diminishing to three hundred, by the next July, with hospital treatment to two hundred sick refugees and freedmen at one time. The whole number taken into the Home and discharged, or furnished with transportation, either to the free States or to their homes in the South, was not less than three thousand. On the 10th of July, 1865, between two and three hundred, remaining, either sick or helpless, were admitted, by the city authorities and the County Court, to the City Hospital and the Poor Farm, and the institution was closed. One of the great benefits of this Refugee and Freedmen's Home consisted in its being a school, where all the refugee women and freedwomen who were in health were required to do housework, cooking, and laundry work; were paid moderate wages, with which to clothe themselves and children; and taught some of the first lessons of a better civilization. To Major General G. M. DODGE and Brigadier General WM. MYERS, the Commander and Chief Quartermaster of the Department of Missouri,

at that time, the Commission is greatly indebted for humane assistance and co-operation.

The expense of the Western Sanitary Commission, towards the support of this institution, was \$1,000 per month, besides the outlay of furnishing. Rations and fuel were drawn from the Government by the Superintendent. The institution performed a needed good to the poor refugees and their children, and to many colored women and their children, who had been set free with too large an incumbence to support themselves, or who were sick and unable to provide themselves a home. The number of white refugees was about double that of the blacks, and they occupied distinct portions of the building. Besides the instruction given in housework and sewing, and in improved habits of cleanliness, Sunday worship and the Sabbath School were also attended, on every Sabbath, and the influence of the institution was elevating and civilizing upon its inmates.

In the management of the internal affairs of the Home, the furnishing of material for clothing, and the making of it into garments to supply the destitute inmates, most valuable aid was rendered by Mrs. ALFRED CLAPP, President of the Ladies' Union Aid Society, and a committee of ladies of the same society (of whom Mrs. JOSEPH CRAWSHAW was specially devoted to this work), and by Mrs. LUCIEN EATON, the President of the Ladies' Freedmen Association, Mrs. N. STEVENS, and other ladies of this society, who, in conjunction with Mr. YEATMAN and Mr. FORMAN, the Superintendent of Refugees and Freedmen for St. Louis, devised the plan of the institution.

A portion of the time the Superintendent was assisted in his duties by Lieutenant CHARLES E. MOSS, of the 31st Missouri Infantry, and by his faithful clerk, the venerable HENRY C. WEATHERBY, of the 30th Iowa Infantry, who, with all the other employees of the institution, performed their duties faithfully and well, and to the full satisfaction of the Commission and the military

commander. The following letter of Mr. YEATMAN to T. G. ODIORNE, Esq., of Cincinnati, Ohio, gives some additional particulars of the work done by the Commission for refugees :

“ROOMS WESTERN SANITARY COMMISSION,

“ST. LOUIS, *May* 25, 1865.

“T. G. ODIORNE, ESQ.,

“*Cincinnati :*

“DEAR SIR: Since my return from a trip up the Arkansas, I have been so constantly occupied that I have not been able to communicate with you as I intended, and can do little more than write a line now. At Memphis I found that Mr. ROBE had left, and would not again return. I visited the refugee's camp, and found great destitution and suffering among them. I took with me Mr. O. E. WATERS, Superintendent of the Soldiers' Home, and directed him to do what he could towards improving the condition of the sick, and have furnished supplies for that purpose. There were over 800 refugees at this point. At Cairo, there are about 150 ; at Columbus, about 80 ; at Little Rock, there are some 1,500 or 1,600. They have a Refugee Relief Society, which has \$1,000 per month turned over to it, with which it employs a physician, and purchases food, the Government not supplying any. There were many sick, and in want of vegetable diet, and I ordered 10 barrels of potatoes, 2 barrels kraut and pickles, with soda crackers, zwiebeck, farina, dried fruit, blackberry cordial, &c., with tea and sugar for the sick. This is furnished each week. They need clothing. At Duvall's Bluff there are about 1,100 in the same condition, who are supplied by a post fund. I also ordered a similar supply of vegetables, &c., per week, and have shipped clothing, mattresses, tin-cups, plates, &c., which will add to their comfort. I directed that all the orphans at Little Rock and Duvall's Bluff should be sent here, as we had provision made for them. Ten

arrived to-day from the first-named place, and we cared for some six more sent from Vicksburg. The number of refugees at Vicksburg is small. Our school and Home were closed while I was there. At Fort Smith there are over 1,500. We have done nothing more than send a supply of clothing to them as yet.

* * * * *

“Most truly, yours,

“JAMES E. YEATMAN.”

During the winter of 1865, Congress passed the act creating a Refugee and Freedmen's National Bureau. The position of Commissioner of this Bureau was tendered to Mr. YEATMAN, by the late President LINCOLN, through the Secretary of War, but declined. Major General O. O. HOWARD was afterwards appointed, and in answer to his request for information from all associations and individuals, who had been in any way engaged in aiding the refugees and freedmen, Mr. YEATMAN addressed him a communication, giving many facts of interest to the Bureau, concerning these people in the Valley of the Mississippi. In this letter, after referring to his published report of a visit to the freedmen, which extended from St. Louis, as far as Natchez, in November, 1863, with Mr. W. P. MELLE, the supervising agent of the Treasury Department for the western district (some account of which is given in the report of the Commission, May 1st, 1864, page 115), he says :

“The cause of education has advanced most rapidly among the freedmen. ‘The schoolmaster is abroad,’ and hundreds of good men and women have been sent out by the charitable and religious societies of the North, whose sympathies are almost exclusively with the colored people, because of the life-long oppression they have endured. But few schools, as yet, have been established for the white refugees, and apparently but little interest has been excited in their behalf. This Commission, in order to aid Government and lighten the burdens imposed on our military commanders,

especially in this military district, has rendered some assistance to the white refugees. This class of people, we find, are inferior, in many respects, to the recently emancipated negroes. They have all the false pride and arrogance engendered by the institutions of the South, without having been taught to labor, considering that it is degrading to work, because 'niggers work.' They are ignorant, and have all the vices of ignorance. One cannot tell which to admire most, the wisdom and goodness of God in emancipating the poor negro from bondage, or in breaking the bonds which have borne so hard upon these poor, degraded whites, called by the very negroes the 'white trash' of the South.

"We have, in this city, provided for taking care of all the refugee orphans that are sent to us, besides establishing a large Home for refugees, with their families, where they are taught to work, and prepared for new employments, by which they can support themselves. As rapidly as they are prepared, they are sent out. All who work in the institution are paid, and are thus enabled to purchase their own clothing, and thereby taught to be self-supporting.

"The Commission, besides taking care of the refugees in this city, has sustained Refugee Homes at Vicksburg, Natchez, and Helena. It has teachers employed at Vicksburg, St. Louis, and Rolla. It has furnished clothing, books, medicines, vegetables, articles of special diet for the sick, garden seeds, garden implements, farming utensils, and teachers, to every point from which application has been made for them, or where we have known they were in want. In most cases it has used the Government agents and superintendents, appointed by the military, for the distribution of such supplies as were asked for. Of course, our supply must necessarily be limited to the really destitute. The points embraced in our work for this class have been: Natchez, Vicksburg, Helena, Little Rock, Duvall's Bluff, Fort Smith, Fayetteville, Iron-ton, Cape Girardeau, Rolla, and Springfield, Missouri.

"In a recent visit made to Arkansas, I found at Little Rock about 1,400 white refugees, mostly in camps (log huts) formerly occupied by our troops. They are guarded by soldiers. The citizens' trade-stores, &c., are taxed \$1,000, which is turned over to a relief committee, for the support of these people. Finding them greatly in need of vegetables, the Commission directed that 10 barrels of potatoes, 4 barrels kraut, 2 barrels pickles, with articles of special diet for the sick, be furnished to them weekly. Twenty miles below Little Rock a Refugee Home has been started, where 300 are provided for. At Duvall's Bluff I found 976, similarly situated to those at Little Rock. They are suffering for want of a vegetable diet. I directed our agent to supply them, weekly, the same as at Little Rock, in proportion to their numbers, and gave beds and bedding for a hospital for them.

"At Memphis, I found about eight hundred refugees, who were in a destitute and suffering condition. As our labors have been more particularly confined to points west of the Mississippi, we had left Memphis to the care of other associations, but finding them in great need of special diet for their sick, I directed our agents, Mr. WATERS and Mrs. STARR, to visit them, and render such assistance as was necessary. Colonel EATON has assumed the care of the refugees at Memphis and Vicksburg. Large numbers of refugees have been sent to Cairo, in Illinois, and from there distributed throughout the Northwest. Nashville and Clarksville, Tenn., have received vast numbers of refugees from Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina. These have been sent to Louisville and Cincinnati, but there are still a large number retained at the first named places.

"There are colored orphan asylums established at several points, one at Memphis, under Mrs. Colonel CANBY—a well conducted institution and one at Helena,—the Society of Friends in Indiana.

"In my recent visit to Vicksburg, I offered, in behalf of our Commission, to furnish a complete outfit of 100 beds for a colored orphan asylum. It will be conducted under the auspices of the National Freedmen's Aid Society.

"Our Commission has just purchased a valuable property in this city, for an asylum for colored orphans, by which it can aid in the care of the children of colored women, when they have more than they can support. Persons are unwilling to employ women who have more than one or two children. With the aid we give, in finding homes for their children as they become old enough to work, we hope to render them important aid in enabling them to support themselves.

"The disposition of colored people is to congregate in cities, towns, or communities of their own. This should be discouraged, as far as possible. As the great mass of the freed people have been tillers of the soil, trained to labor in the field, it is important that they should be encouraged to continue where they are, under wise and judicious regulations, guaranteeing them protection, and fair compensation for their labor. They should be taught that freedom is not license to live a life of idleness, but liberty to work for themselves instead of a master. They should be encouraged, by pointing out to them that they have now only to support themselves, instead of having to support both themselves and their masters, as heretofore. Portions of abandoned and confiscated land should be leased or sold to all who desire to cultivate the soil for themselves, say in parcels of from twenty to one hundred acres and upwards, not mere garden patches, such as many of these people have, but a sufficiency to afford full employment to them, and to form permanent homes for themselves. I have found them, as a class, thrifty, and willing to work, and with only a half chance they will do well.

"In regard to the white refugees, they will, I fear, for a time, have to be considered and treated as paupers. No one will employ

them, they being both indisposed, and not knowing how, to work. The great mass of those now in the camps are women and children, or infirm old men. Many have homes on small tracts of land in the interior, which have been desolated. If they return to them, it would be simply to starve to death, unless the Government would grant some aid. I would suggest that captured horses and wagons, or condemned ones, with a few plows and hoes, should be turned over by the Government for the use of these people; also, old and condemned clothing, especially hospital clothing, which can be worked up for women and children; also, hospital furniture, cooking utensils, table-ware, &c., with three, four, five, or six months' rations of meal, flour, and bacon; and then that these people should be required to return to their homes, at least all such as have not made new homes for themselves, and are able to maintain themselves in them.

"My communication is longer than I intended, but as brief as I could well make it. Hoping it will be of some service to you, and the Government, and to the people in whose behalf I am so deeply interested,

"I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"JAMES E. YEATMAN,

"President Western Sanitary Commission.

"MAJOR GENERAL O. O. HOWARD,

"Commissioner of Bureau of Refugees and Freedmen."

In the spring of 1865, Brigadier General J. W. SPRAGUE, Assistant Commissioner of refugees and freedmen for Missouri and Arkansas, entered upon his duties at St. Louis. The Commission, both by its President and Secretary,—the latter, as Chaplain, being assigned to the Bureau,—rendered to him all possible aid and co-operation in his work. In October, 1865, he removed his headquarters to Little Rock, and the work in Missouri was gradually brought to a close.

On the 10th of August, 1865, a communication was addressed to Major General O. O. HOWARD, at Washington, by the Secretary of the Commission, in reply to a circular calling for information, in which the following facts, and statements of receipts and expenditures for refugees and freedmen, are given :

“ROOMS OF THE WESTERN SANITARY COMMISSION,

“ST. LOUIS, MO., *August 10, 1865.*

“Major General O. O. HOWARD,

“*Commissioner of the National Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, .*

“*and Abandoned Lands,*

“GENERAL : In reply to your circular of the 25th ult., I have the honor to transmit the following report :

“As the questions contained in your letter contemplate only the work done for *refugees* and *freedmen*, the following answers will relate only to that part of the work of this Commission, which has been performed incidentally, as a much needed charity, growing out of the war, and from the dictates of humanity,—being less than a hundredth part of its work for the army, which has included colored soldiers, as well as white troops.

CASH RECEIPTS FOR REFUGEES AND FREEDMEN.

1861-2	Received, in response to call on St. Louis for loyal refugees.....	\$18,800.00
1864	Received, from refugee and freedmen's department of Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair... ..	16,720.10
1864-5	Received, in special donations for refugees and freedmen.....	21,656.90
	Total.....	<u>\$57,177.00</u>

CASH EXPENDITURES FOR REFUGEES AND FREEDMEN.

1861-2	Cash expended by John S. Cavender, Esq., for loyal refugees in St. Louis, under the direction of this Commission.....	\$18,800.00
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1863-4-5	Cash for supplies to freedmen in camps, hospitals, &c.....	19,947.00
1863-4-5	Cash for supplies to refugees in camps, hospitals and refugee homes, for payment of employees, agents, &c.....	16,750.30
1863-4-5	Cash for education of freedmen.....	3,909.35
1863-4-5	Cash for education of refugees.....	2,097.00
1865	Cash for purchase of Freedmen's Orphans' Home in St. Louis.....	7,000.00
1865	Cash appropriated for supporting the same.....	4,000.00
Total.....		<u>\$72,503.65</u>

"The surplus of expenditures for refugees and freedmen, over the receipts, is \$15,326.65, which amount, from the general fund of the Commission, is covered by other donations left to its option as to the manner of expenditure, and by interest money from funds, temporarily invested by the Treasurer until needed.

RECEIPTS OF SUPPLIES FOR REFUGEES AND FREEDMEN.

"In the same period there has been received by this Commission, for refugees and freedmen, 148 boxes and 30 barrels of clothing and material. Of these contributions, a valuable portion was of new material for clothing from Boston, and was largely distributed to freedmen, in camps along the Mississippi river, above and below Vicksburg, in Louisiana and Mississippi, during the winter of 1864.

"The value of these contributions from Boston (a portion of which was collected from neighboring towns and cities), was nearly \$40,000.00. Other contributions consisted of second-hand clothing. The estimated value of the whole is \$50,000.00.

EXPENDITURE OF SUPPLIES FOR REFUGEES AND FREEDMEN.

"The above contributions were all distributed by the Commission according to the designs of the donors, and large additions of hospital and sanitary stores were made from the general supplies to refugees and freedmen, at Leavenworth and Fort Scott, Kansas, at

St. Louis and Benton Barracks, Springfield, Rolla, Pilot Knob, and Cape Girardeau, Mo., at Memphis, Nashville, and Chattanooga, Tenn., at Helena, Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Duvall's Bluff, Fort Smith and Fayetteville, Ark., at Islands No. 10, No. 60, and President's Island, Mississippi river, at Columbus, Ky., at Vicksburg and Natchez, Miss., at Goodrich's Landing, La., and at several other points of less importance. The estimated value of the supplies distributed to refugees and freedmen, besides the cash expenditures, is \$65,000.00, which, added to the latter, makes a total of \$137,573.65.

DISTRIBUTIONS TO FREEDMEN AND REFUGEE ORPHAN HOMES.

"Besides the foregoing distributions, this Commission has turned over a large portion of the outfit of the Soldiers' Home, at Vicksburg, sufficient for one hundred beds, for a Freedmen's Orphans' Home in that city, taken charge of by the National Freedmen's Aid Commission, of New York. It has also established a Freedmen's Orphans' Home in St. Louis, having purchased a suitable property for the purpose, on Twelfth street, between Cass avenue and O'Fallon street; fitted it up with furniture, bedding, and housekeeping articles; provided a Matron, and opened the institution with twenty-four orphans. Eighty colored orphans were afterwards brought from Helena,—making over one hundred. It is also intended, in this home, to take care of the children of freedwomen who have no resource but to hire out to labor and service to support themselves.

"The Commission has also rendered important aid in the establishment of a Refugee and Orphans' Home at Springfield, Mo., conducted under the auspices of a philanthropic lady of that town, Hon. Mrs. J. S. PHELPS, to whom it has sent an excellent lady, Mrs. MARY A. WHITTAKER, as a teacher for the refugee children, and appropriated \$1,000 to carry on the Home.

"A request has also been received by this Commission from the

Western Freedmen's Aid Society, of Cincinnati, Ohio, asking it to turn over the material of the Soldiers' Home at Memphis, Tenn., towards the establishment of freedmen's orphans' homes at Legrange, Tenn.; at President's Island, near Memphis, Tenn.; and at Davis' Bend, Miss., at which latter place it is represented there are five hundred colored orphans. This transfer has been ordered by the Commission, and since carried into effect by the Superintendent of the Home, Mr. O. E. WATERS, who, with the Matron, Mrs. LUCY E. STARR, on the closing of the Soldiers' Home, went into the service of the Freedmen's Aid Commission, in its work of humanity, at Memphis.

SCHOOLS FOR REFUGEES AND FREED PEOPLE.

"The number of schools for refugees and freed people, established and sustained by this Commission, has been nine, and the number of teachers sixteen,—all of them women. No men nor colored female teachers have been employed, because none that were competent have offered their service or been known to the Commission.

"The average attendance in these schools has varied at different periods and places, from thirty to two hundred. Considering the changes of scholars passing through them, the number of children who have received instruction in these nine schools has not been less than 3,500. The Commission has also furnished 10,000 school books, spelling books, readers, geographies, arithmetics, and slates to schools for the children of refugees and freedmen, and to regiments of colored soldiers.

"The Commission has nearly closed its labors, and will not be able to put any more teachers in the field. It has left this great moral enterprise, of supplying teachers and schools for the freed people of the South, chiefly to the Freedmen's Relief Associations and religious societies engaged in this work, and has considered its own more appropriate labor, for these people, to be the relief of their physical wants,—feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and assisting

the destitute to obtain employment, or to reach their homes when it has seemed best for them to return. What has been done to furnish teachers and schools and school-books for their children has been incidental to its other work, and where no other association seemed to meet the necessity. Trusting that its labors have been useful, even in this field, this report of a single branch of its operations is respectfully submitted.

"I have the honor to be,

"Your obedient servant,

"J. G. FORMAN,

"Secretary Western Sanitary Commission."

The following is a statement of the number and kind of articles issued by the Western Sanitary Commission to refugees and freed-men, from the date of its organization, September 5th, 1861, to the close of its labors with the year 1865 :

- 21,033 blankets and comforts.
- 1,450 bed sacks and mattresses.
- 500 sheets.
- 3,400 pillows and pillow-ticks.
- 800 pillow-slips.
- 400 bedsteads.
- 1,586 towels and napkins.
- 1,000 handkerchiefs.
- 3,127 hospital, Canton flannel, and wool shirts.
- 2,680 hospital, Canton flannel, and wool drawers.
- 100 hospital gowns.
- 3,216 wool socks.
- 1,237 carpet and leather slippers.
- 3,811 boots and shoes.
- 2,000 hats and caps.
- 1,926 spools thread.
- 50 pounds black patent thread.
- 1,740 gross buttons.
- 1,549 pin cushions and work bags.
- 800 bandages.
- 1,100 pounds rags and lint.
- 150 oil silk and cotton pads.

- 175 crutches and canes.
- 40 back rests.
- 25 close stools.
- 2,000 tin cups and cups and saucers.
- 1,040 white ware and tin plates.
- 150 coffee pots.
- 1,900 basins and tin pans.
- 430 tin and wooden buckets.
- 2,862 chairs and stools.
- 75 eye-shades and arm-slings.
- 800 slates.
- 45,000 school and reading books.
- 2,500 tracts and magazines.
- 2,000 quires writing paper.
- 1,480 packages envelopes.
- 300 coal oil lamps.
- 1,500 lamp chimneys.
- 417 dozen lamp wicks.
- 7,400 papers garden seeds.
- 6,667 coats and jackets.
- 8,487 pairs pantaloons.
- 1,900 coarse and fine combs.
- 200 palm leaf fans.
- 2,040 knives and forks.
- 125 wash boards.
- 240 pairs scissors.
- 150 bottles extracts.
- 1,240 bottles medicine and syrup.
- 890 pounds drugs and medicines.
- 860 bottles whisky and brandy.
- 1,485 bottles blackberry cordial and brandy.
- 625 bottles wines.
- 40 pounds citric acid.
- 1,500 pounds dried fruit.
- 974 pounds dried beef and ham.
- 745 pounds tea.
- 978 pounds coffee.
- 1,800 pounds sugar.
- 174,901 pounds flour, corn, and oat meal.
- 1,980 pounds farina and corn starch.
- 165 pounds cocoa, chocolate, &c.
- 3,637 pounds crackers.
- 981 pounds toast.
- 750 loaves bread.

- 1,971 pounds butter.
- 150 pounds cheese.
- 70 bottles catsup and pepper sauce.
- 1,840 pounds soap.
- 85 pounds hops.
- 175 gallons kraut.
- 890 cans tomatoes, peaches, &c.
- 190 cans jelly and jam.
- 165 cans condensed milk.
- 250 gallons pickles.
- 195 bushels potatoes.
- 75 bushels onions.
- 110 dozens eggs.
- 996 gallons coal oil.
- 97 cans oysters and tripe.
- 170 cans assorted meats.
- 60 cans corned beef and cabbage sauce.
- 74 bottles bitters.
- 130 bottles wine and cordial.
- 35 cans extract beef.
- 65 cans soup.
- 780 gallons molasses.
- 500 pounds lard.
- 25 pounds cream tartar.
- 1,400 shawls and gowns.
- 8,800 cwt. hay and straw.
- 84 pounds yeast powders.
- 460 pounds carbonate soda.
- 240 brooms.
- 296 pounds carbonate of lime.
- 80 pairs suspenders.
- 1,957 dresses.
- 7,828 pieces underclothing.
- 140 mosquito bars.
- 250 papers pins and needles.
- 37,750 yards material for dresses, &c.
- 3,480 miscellaneous articles.
- 460 pounds salt.
- 11 air beds.
- 42 stoves.
- 200 dozens spoons.
- 17 coffee mills.
- 8 clocks.
- 48 scrub brushes.

22 kettles.
 100 looking glasses.
 94 ash pans.
 120 coal hods.
 250 shovels and pokers.
 480 garden tools.
 205,000 feet lumber.
 80 cords wood.

Whole number of articles to refugees and freedmen, 433,764.

The labors of the Western Sanitary Commission for freedmen commenced at Helena, Arkansas, in the winter of 1862-3, in the establishment of a hospital for them, and the sending of an agent and supplies to relieve them from sickness, suffering, cold, and want. A full account of these labors, and of the joint labors of the Commission and the National Freedmen's Relief Association of New York, at Vicksburg and Natchez, and of its own independent labors at other points along the Mississippi river, and of the two visits of Mr. YEATMAN to all their camps as far as Natchez, the printed report of the first visit, December, 1863, and also of the second visit, in February, 1864, with W. P. MELLE, Esq., of the Treasury Department, to organize a system of labor and of leasing the abandoned plantations, and an account of clothing and supplies forwarded to Messrs. W. L. MARSH, H. K. FOSTER, N. M. MANN, Rev. Mr. ROUNDTRE, Chaplain J. R. LOCKE, Chaplain JONATHAN E. THOMAS, Chaplain JOHN J. HERRICK, and other persons engaged in this work, are given in the history of the Commission, chapter X, pages 100-128, already referred to, published at the date of the Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair, at St. Louis, in May, 1864.

From the holding of the great Fair of that date the work of the Commission for refugees became blended with that for freedmen. An account of one is, to some extent, an account of the other, as has already appeared in the details of this chapter. Moreover, as the National Freedmen's Relief Association at New York, under the

presidency of Hon. GEORGE FRANCIS SHAW, and the Western Freedmen's Relief Association of Cincinnati, and the Northwestern Freedmen's Relief Commission of Chicago, and Associations of Friends in Indiana and Iowa, had entered largely upon the work in the whole Mississippi Valley, sending supplies, relief agents, and teachers, there came to be less necessity for the Western Sanitary Commission to expend its labors in this direction, which had never been its main object, and which had only been done as a necessary incidental work, belonging to the humanities of the war.

From this time, therefore, while it continued to send supplies to all neglected points, and sustained several schools and teachers, some of them in St. Louis and at Benton Barracks, and rendered aid at Natchez, Vicksburg, Helena, Memphis, Columbus, Ky., Leavenworth, Fort Scott, Jefferson City, Rolla, Springfield, Mo., Fayetteville and Fort Smith, Ark., and at some other points; and while it continued to send sanitary stores to the freedmen's hospitals at Natchez, Vicksburg, Memphis, and farming implements and garden seeds to many of the localities where the impoverished inhabitants, freedmen and returned refugees were endeavoring to sustain themselves by agriculture, it gradually withdrew from this field, leaving it to be occupied by the Freedmen's Relief Associations, and so became prepared to close this portion of its work also with the year 1865.

The following acknowledgment from the surgeon in charge of the Freedmen's Hospital at Vicksburg, dated September 15th, 1865, will show how lately the Commission has continued to render aid to the freedmen, wherever it has been called for:

"FREEDMEN'S HOSPITAL, VICKSBURG, MISS., *September 15, 1865.*

"JAMES E. YEATMAN, ESQ.,

"President Western Sanitary Commission, St. Louis, Mo.

"DEAR SIR: I take great pleasure in acknowledging the receipt

of the articles so generously furnished and forwarded for the use of this hospital. I should have done so at a much earlier date, but have been very busily occupied. I assure you, however, they are none the less welcome. The articles were very judiciously selected, and have been of great service to us. May the blessing of Heaven rest upon you, and all who are engaged in doing good. I herewith enclose a receipt, and in the name and behalf of those to whom they were sent, return you, and, through you, the friends of our cause, a thousand thanks for this kindness.

“Very truly yours,

“CHAS. A. FOSTER,

“*Surgeon in Charge.*”

Among the latest labors of the Commission for the freedmen, already referred to in the report of the Secretary to Major General O. O. HOWARD, was the purchase of suitable property for a Freedmen's Orphan's Home, in St. Louis, on Twelfth street, between Cass avenue and O'Fallon street, at a cost of \$7,000, and the appropriation of \$4,000 additional to furnish the Home, and assist in sustaining it the first year. This purchase was made last June ; and on the breaking up of the Refugee and Freedmen's Home on Broadway, the colored orphan children of the institution, numbering 24, were removed to this new institution. In August, 80 other colored orphans were brought from Helena, by order of Brigadier General SPRAGUE, and received into this Home.

The management of this Home has been placed in the hands of an association of ladies, called the Freedmen's Orphan's Home Association, of which Mrs. ALFRED CLAPP is the first directress. An advisory committee has also been formed, and meetings of the ladies of the Association, some of whom are intelligent and worthy colored women, are held every week, to work for the children, and attend to the interests of the Home. The Matron of the Home is Mrs. H. M. WEED.

Whenever there is in the institution a surplus of children of sufficient age, they are indentured, by contract, to persons willing to adopt and teach them some useful employment, and give them three months' schooling in the year. The following form of indenture or contract has been adopted, and will show the terms and conditions upon which the children are placed in new homes:

ARTICLE OF AGREEMENT.

FREEDMEN'S ORPHANS' HOME,

Twelfth street, between O'Fallon street and Cass avenue,

ST. LOUIS, MO., ———, 186

This indenture witnesseth, that —, of the town of —, county of — and State of —, of the first part, in consideration of the promise of future service, receives into his care —, aged — years, an orphan of colored parents (one or both of whom is deceased), from the Freedmen's Orphans' Home of St. Louis, into whose guardianship and care the child has come, through destitution; and that the said party of the first part agrees with the Matron of the Freedmen's Orphans' Home, of the second part (this agreement to be approved by the First Directress of the Freedmen's Orphan Association), that he, the said party of the first part, in taking charge and custody of the said child, will provide for it, in his own home, with sufficient and wholesome food, and comfortable and decent clothing; that in case of sickness he will provide good nursing, medicine, and medical attendance; that he will have the child taught reading, writing, geography, and arithmetic, by sending it to school three months in each year, if there be one for colored children, or one in which the child can be received, within one mile of his residence, or, if not that, he will have such instruction imparted in his own family; that he will keep the child

till it is fourteen years of age, when it shall be allowed the freedom to choose a guardian, to be approved by the 1st Directress of the Freedmen's Orphan Association, or to remain with the said party of the first part, under the following agreement for wages : he, the said party of the first part, agreeing that for such period as the child may remain in his service, and under his care, after the age of fourteen years until it reaches the age of eighteen years, he will pay the sum of four dollars per month, if the child is a girl, or seven dollars per month in case it is a boy, as wages, charging only cost prices for clothing furnished during this period, and paying up the wages whenever, from any cause, the child may cease to remain with the said party of the first part under this contract ; or, if the child remains till eighteen years of age, giving to him or her, in addition to any wages that may be due, a new pocket bible, and a new suit of clothing, of the value in the case of a girl, of fifteen dollars, and in the case of a boy, of twenty-five dollars ; provided, that in case the child shall be sent to school three months in each year, according to this agreement, wages during such periods will not be required ; provided, further, that in case the child shall, without good cause, leave the home and guardianship herein provided, at any time after the payment of wages begins, he or she shall forfeit whatever wages may be due, not exceeding two months' wages, and that good cause for leaving or terminating this contract shall be determined by the decision of the 1st Directress of the Freedmen's Orphan Association, after a hearing or investigation of the case ; provided, also, that the person taking the foregoing child shall bring the said child, at the end of the first three months, back to the Freedmen's Orphan Home, that the parties may be inquired of by the Matron or a Directress of the Freedmen's Orphan Association, whether the arrangement is satisfactory, from which time only it will become permanently binding.

"In witness whereof, we have hereunto affixed our hands and seals the day and year above written.

"WITNESS :

-----[L. S.]

-----[L. S.]

"APPROVED :

"1st Directress Freedmen's Orphan's Association."

This Home has a school in connection with it, in which the teacher, Miss HESS, is sustained by the Commission.

Besides this school, the Commission, during the school year ending in September, 1865, appropriated \$100 per month to aid the colored people of St. Louis to sustain schools for their children. An excellent high school, in the basement of the church on the corner of Locust and Eighth streets, was taught through the same year by Miss ANNA E. WALL and Miss IDA M. ELIOT, of New Bedford, the latter a daughter of the Hon. T. D. ELIOT, M. C. from Massachusetts. This school, which was for the advanced scholars of the colored people, numbered from 50 to 60 scholars, and was equal to the same grade of schools in any city of the Union. It was sustained by funds contributed from friends in Massachusetts, through Rev. Dr. ELIOT, of the Western Sanitary Commission.

There are five schools for colored children at the present time, taught by colored teachers, and supported by tuition fees. These schools contain about 400 pupils. Although the colored people are taxed for the support of the public schools of Saint Louis, there has been no provision made as yet for the education of the colored children of the city, and they receive none of the benefits of the

public schools, for which their parents are taxed, beyond an appropriation of \$500. There is a prospect, however, that this reproach will be removed during the year.

The following letter of Mr. YEATMAN to D. C. JACCARD, Esq., of St. Louis, acknowledging the receipt of \$1,000, from a fund raised in Switzerland, by penny contributors, for the benefit of the colored people of America, to be used for the Freedmen's Orphan Home, becomes matter of sufficient interest to be included in this report :

“ROOMS WESTERN SANITARY COMMISSION,

“ST. LOUIS, *July 22d*, 1865.

“MR. D. C. JACCARD :

“DEAR SIR: Your note of this date, enclosing check for one thousand dollars, is received, being a donation from the funds of the Switzerland Penny Society, to be used for the purpose of establishing a colored infant and orphan asylum in the city of St. Louis. You will please accept our thanks for yourself and those you represent in free Switzerland, for thinking of those who have so recently been freed from the yoke of slavery in the United States, and for so generously contributing to the support of an institution, which has for its object the care of colored orphans, and the children of those who are unable to maintain them. There are quite a large number of this latter class now thrown upon the community. Women who have been slaves, and who have from three to ten children, and are unable at once by their labor to support and care for them. By relieving them temporarily, the mothers can earn a living, and as their children grow older they can add their labor to that of their mothers, and thus jointly support themselves, and re-unite their families in homes of their own.

The institution, which you have aided in establishing, has already secured and paid for a very desirable property, consisting of a small

church, which will be used as a school-house, and two dwelling-houses adjoining. There is an efficient board of lady managers, at the head of which is Mrs. ALFRED CLAPP. There will be some colored persons associated with them in the management, and so soon as it can be done, the colored people will have the control of it. I am satisfied that you could not have directed these funds to a more useful and truly humane institution, or one which is more needed at this time. The managers would be most happy to have you visit the institution from time to time, and see its operations. It was opened on last Monday, and is now receiving the class of children whom it was intended to benefit. The institution is located on Twelfth street, near Cass avenue.

“Thanking you again, and those benevolent Swiss, whose hearts and charity can extend across the Atlantic and beyond the Mississippi,

“I remain very respectfully,

“JAMES E. YEATMAN,

“President Western Sanitary Commission.”

Among the liberal donations received for the freedmen was one of \$500 from those noble philanthropists of England, JOSEPH and ESTHER STURGE, forwarded through Mrs. MARIA WESTON CHAPMAN, of Boston, and another of \$500 for refugees, from JOSEPH F. FAY, Esq., of Boston.

Soon after the death of the lamented President of the United States, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, a very remarkable and spontaneous movement commenced with a colored woman, named CHARLOTTE SCOTT, at Marietta, Ohio, and was taken up by the colored soldiers, to erect a monument at Washington to the memory of ABRAHAM LINCOLN, to be called “The Freedmen’s National Monument.” As the contributions for this object have been so far placed in the hands of the Western Sanitary Commission, it seems proper that an account of it should be given here.

On the first of May succeeding the death of the late President, Mr. JAMES E. YEATMAN, President of the Western Sanitary Commission, at St. Louis, received a note from Brigadier General T. C. H. SMITH, which he had published in the *Missouri Democrat*, of the next day, which, with his communication to the editor, is here given :

“To the Editors of the Democrat :

“GENTLEMEN : I enclose you a note, received this evening from a gentleman now sojourning in this city, which contains a suggestion worthy of the consideration of those who have been made free by the action of our lamented President.

“It would be a fitting tribute from the race to the noble and good man who has done so much for them.

“I doubt not that it is only necessary that the suggestion should be brought to their notice, in order to secure their prompt and efficient action, and by a small contribution from each, a fund would soon be raised sufficient to rear a noble structure to commemorate their gratitude and love to the man through whose instrumentality enslaved millions of their race have been made free.

“Very respectfully,

“JAMES E. YEATMAN.”

“WEDNESDAY MORNING, *April 26.*

“MY DEAR SIR : A poor negro woman, of Marietta, Ohio, one of those made free by President LINCOLN’S proclamation, proposes that a monument to their dead friend be erected by the colored people of the United States. She has handed to a person in Marietta five dollars, as her contribution for the purpose. Such a monument would have a history more grand and touching than any of which we have account. Would it not be well to take up this suggestion, and make it known to the freedmen ?

“Yours truly,

“T. C. H. SMITH.

“JAS. E. YEATMAN, Esq.”

The name of the "poor negro woman" of Marietta, Ohio, is CHARLOTTE SCOTT, formerly the slave of Dr. W. P. RUCKER, who, in a letter to Mr. YEATMAN, also given below, bears testimony to the excellent character of this poor woman, and to the generous impulse which prompted her to say, on hearing of Mr. LINCOLN's death, that she would give five dollars of her wages "to build a monument to his memory." The following is the letter of Dr. RUCKER, followed by that of Rev. Mr. BATTELLE, who forwarded the contribution :

"MARIETTA, OHIO, *June 29th*, 1865.

"Mr. JAMES E. YEATMAN,

"President Western Sanitary Commission, St. Louis :

"MY DEAR SIR : I have learned, with the greatest satisfaction, through Brigadier General T. C. H. SMITH, and the public press, that you are devoting your noble energies in giving tone and direction to the collection and appropriation of a fund for the erection of the Freedmen's National Monument, in honor and memory of the benefactor and savior of their race.

"The General also informs me that you desire, and have requested through him that the five dollars deposited with the Rev. C. H. BATTELLE, of this city, by CHARLOTTE SCOTT, should be used as the *original and foundation subscription* for this most praiseworthy purpose ; and Mr. BATTELLE assures me that he will most cheerfully remit it to you this day. As a slaveholder by inheritance, and up to a period after the outbreak of the rebellion, and as an ardent admirer of our lamented President, the author of universal emancipation in America, I feel an enthusiastic interest in the success of the Freedmen's National Monument. I hope it may stand unequalled and unrivalled in grandeur and magnificence. It should be built *essentially* by *freedmen*, and should be *emphatically national*. Every dollar should

come from the former slaves; every State should furnish a stone, and the monument should be erected at the capital of the nation. Nothing could be better calculated to stimulate this down-trodden and abused race to renewed efforts for a moral and national status.

“CHARLOTTE SCOTT, whose photograph General SMITH will forward, was born a slave in Campbell county, Virginia. She is about sixty years old, but is very hale and active. Her reputation for industry, intelligence, and moral integrity has always been appreciated by her friends and acquaintances, both white and colored. She was given, with other slaves, to my wife, by her father, THOMAS H. SCOTT. When we received the news of Mr. LINCOLN’s assassination, the morning after its occurrence, she was deeply distressed. In a conversation with Mrs. RUCKER, she said: “*The colored people have lost their best friend on earth; Mr. LINCOLN was our best friend, and I will give five dollars of my wages towards erecting a monument to his memory.*” She asked me who would be the best person to raise money for the purpose; I suggested Mr. BATTELLE, and she gave him the five dollars.

“I am, my dear sir,

“Truly and respectfully,

“WM. P. RUCKER.”

“MARIETTA, OHIO, June 29, 1865.

“Mr. J. E. YEATMAN,

“DEAR SIR: I was providentially called upon by CHARLOTTE SCOTT, formerly a slave of Dr. W. P. RUCKER, now living in this place, to receive the enclosed \$5, as the commencement of a fund to be applied to rearing a monument to the memory of Hon. ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

“I received her offering, and gave notice through the press that I would receive other donations, and cheerfully do what I could to

promote so noble an object. Other persons have signified their willingness to give when the measure is fully inaugurated.

"By the advice of General T. C. H. SMITH I herewith forward you her contribution, and I hope to hear from you upon its receipt, that I may show to Charlotte and others that the money has gone in the right direction. After hearing from you, I hope to be able to stir up the other colored folks on this subject.

"I rejoice, dear sir, that I have some connection with this honorable movement in its incipency. I shall not fail to watch its progress with thrilling interest, and hope to live until the top-stone shall be laid, amid the jubilant rejoicing of emancipated millions crying, 'Grace, grace unto it.'

"Very respectfully, yours,

"C. D. BATTELLE."

The publication of the note of Mr. YEATMAN, and the first communication received concerning the colored woman's proposed offering, brought the following letters and contributions, showing how generously the proposition of CHARLOTTE SCOTT was responded to by the colored troops stationed at Natchez, Miss. These contributions have been duly deposited, for safe keeping, towards the Freedmen's National Monument to Mr. LINCOLN.

"HEADQUARTERS, 6TH U. S. COLORED HEAVY ARTILLERY,

"FORT MCPHERSON, NATCHEZ, May 19, 1865.

"JAMES E. YEATMAN,

"*President Western Sanitary Commission, St. Louis,*

"DEAR SIR: I hereby transmit to you, to be appropriated to the monument to be erected to the late President LINCOLN, the sum of four thousand two hundred and forty-two dollars, the gift from the soldiers and freedmen of this regiment. Allow me to say that

I feel proud of my regiment for their liberal contribution in honor of our lamented chief. Please acknowledge receipt.

“Very respectfully,

“Your obedient servant,

“JOHN P. COLEMAN,

“Lieutenant Colonel, commanding 6th U. S. Colored Heavy Artillery.

“Amounts, as donated by their respective companies: Co. A, \$515; Co. B, \$594; Co. C, \$514; Co. D, \$464; Co. E, \$199; Co. F, \$409; Co. G, \$284; Co. H, \$202; Co. I, \$423; Co. K, \$231; Co. L, \$142; Co. M, \$354. Total, \$4,242.”

“HEADQUARTERS, 70TH U. S. COLORED INFANTRY,

“RODNEY, MISS., May 30, 1865.

“Brevet Major General J. W. DAVIDSON,

“Commanding District of Natchez, Miss.,

“GENERAL: I have the honor to enclose the sum of two thousand nine hundred and forty-nine dollars and fifty cents (\$2,949.50), as the amount collected, under your suggestion, for the purpose of erecting a monument to the memory of President LINCOLN. Every dollar of this money has been subscribed by the black enlisted men of my regiment, which has only an aggregate of six hundred and eighty-three (683) men. Much more might have been raised, but I cautioned the officers to check the noble generosity of my men, rather than stimulate it. Allow me to add that the soldiers expect that the monument is to be built by the black people's money exclusively. They feel deeply that the debt of gratitude they owe is large, and anything they can do to keep his ‘memory green,’ will be done cheerfully and promptly.

“If there is a monument built proportionate to the veneration with which the black people hold his memory, then its summit

will be among the clouds—the first to catch the gleam and herald the approach of coming day, even as President LINCOLN himself first proclaimed the first gleam, as well as glorious light, of universal freedom.

“I am, General, most respectfully,

“Your obedient servant,

“W. C. EARLES,

“Colonel 70th U. S. C. Infantry,

“DISTRICT OF NATCHEZ, May 21, 1865.”

“Hon. JAMES E. YEATMAN :

“Upon seeing your suggestions in the *Democrat*, I wrote to my Colonels of colored troops, and they are responding most nobly to the call. FARRAR’s regiment (6th U. S. Heavy Artillery), sent some \$4,700. The money here spoken of has been turned over to Major W. C. LUPTON, Paymaster U. S. A., for you. Please acknowledge receipt through the *Missouri Democrat*. The idea is, that this monument shall be raised to Mr. LINCOLN’s memory, at the national capital, exclusively by the race he has set free.

“Very truly, yours,

“J. W. DAVIDSON,

“*Brevet Major General.*”

“HEAD PAY DEPARTMENT, NATCHEZ, MISS., June 15, 1865.

“JAMES E. YEATMAN, ESQ.,

“*President Western Sanitary Commission, St. Louis,*

“SIR : The colored soldiers of this district, Brevet Major General DAVIDSON commanding, feeling the great obligations they are under to our late President, Mr. LINCOLN, and desiring to perpetuate his

memory, have contributed to the erection of a monument at the national capital, as follows :

70th U. S. C. Infantry, Colonel W. C. EARLE.....	\$2,949.50
Three Companies 63d U. S. C. Infantry,—A, C, and E,	
Lieutenant Colonel MITCHELL.....	263.00
Freedmen of Natchez.....	312.38
	<hr/>
Total.....	\$3,529.85

“Added to this, Major JOHN P. COLEMAN, of the 6th U. S. C. Heavy Artillery, stationed here, has sent you nearly five thousand dollars for the same fund, and the 57th U. S. C. Infantry desire me, at the next pay day, to collect one dollar per man, which will swell the amount to nearly ten thousand dollars. This is a large contribution from not quite seventeen hundred men, and it could have been made larger—many of the men donating over half their pay, and in some instances the whole of it—but it was thought best to limit them.

“Will you please publish this, that the colored soldiers, and their friends, may know that their money has gone forward, and send me a copy of the paper.

“I am, sir, with regard,

“W. C. LUPTON,

“*Paymaster U. S. A.*”

These noble contributions are a striking evidence of the favor with which this movement is regarded by the colored people, and especially the brave soldiers of this oppressed race, who have been fighting to carry out the proclamation of their benefactor, securing them their liberty.

There are those, perhaps, who may think that some other form of testimonial, such as the endowment of some great charity, would be better ; but the colored people of the United States, and especially the liberated bondmen, wish something tangible and visible

to the eye of present and future generations, that will testify of their love and gratitude to their great deliverer. Towards any enterprise, such as the founding of schools and colleges for the education of the colored people, the whole country would expect to contribute; but it is peculiarly fitting that from this race alone, a monument should ascend, at the capital of the nation, showing forth, to the whole world of mankind, the appreciation of an emancipated race for their greatest earthly benefactor.

This movement has been entrusted to the Western Sanitary Commission at St. Louis, who, through its President, JAMES E. YEATMAN, Esq., will take charge of such contributions as may be committed to its care for this object, and will see that the wishes of the contributors are carried into effect.*

* Since the above was written, additional amounts have been received for this object, making the whole amount received at this date (April 15th, 1866), \$16,242.00, now in the hands of the Treasurer of the Commission, C. S. GREELEY. An agent has also been appointed, in the person of J. M. LANGSTON, Esq., an educated colored man of Ohio, and a member of the legal profession, to collect additional subscriptions for this monument from the colored people of the Southern States. Mr. LANGSTON is recommended by his high moral character and excellent abilities, and is pursuing his work with success.

CHAPTER V.

DISTRIBUTIONS OF SANITARY STORES—LIST OF ARTICLES—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF THE COMMISSION—LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS OF THE \$35,000 DONATION FROM BOSTON, IN THE WINTER OF 1863—LIST OF THE PRINCIPAL CASH CONTRIBUTORS OF ST. LOUIS TO THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY SANITARY FAIR—CONCLUSION.

The whole number of articles distributed by the Western Sanitary Commission, since its organization, September 5th, 1861, to the close of its labors with the year 1865, is as follows:

- 7,972 bed sacks and mattresses.
- 40,574 blankets and comforters.
- 50,675 sheets.
- 36,053 pillows.
- 60,880 pillow slips.
- 1,140 bedsteads.
- 67,771 towels and napkins.
- 36,460 handkerchiefs.
- 85,502 hospital, Canton flannel, and wool shirts.
- 91,662 hospital, Canton flannel, and wool drawers.
- 5,584 hospital gowns.
- 78,656 wool and cotton socks.
- 2,559 neck-ties and wool comforters.
- 31,160 carpet and leather slippers.
- 15,430 pairs boots and shoes.
- 7,983 hats and caps.
- 2,918 spools thread.
- 300 pounds black and white patent thread.
- 3,740 gross buttons.
- 12,806 pin cushions and mending bags.
- 114,241 bandages.
- 35,918 packages rags and lint.
- 520 rolls adhesive plaster.
- 280 dozen Melvill's adhesive plaster.
- 8,300 sponges.
- 10,769 cotton and oil silk pads.
- 6,073 crutches and canes.

- 1,850 back rests.
- 1,436 close stools.
- 14,852 games.
- 290 hospital chests.
- 2,008 compresses.
- 25,897 mugs, tin cups, and cups and saucers.
- 20,740 white-ware plates, and tin plates.
- 1,482 coffee pots.
- 8,339 basins and tin pans.
- 1,056 tin and wooden buckets.
- 3,862 chairs and stools.
- 2,662 eye shades and arm slings.
- 1,444 slates.
- 68,829 school and reading books.
- 40,556 tracts and magazines.
- 20,868 quires writing paper.
- 10,458 pkgs. envelopes.
- 932 bottles ink.
- 90 gross steel pens.
- 2,914 dozen pen holders.
- 505 coal oil lamps.
- 2,433 lamp chimneys.
- 917 dozens lamp wicks.
- 17,758 pairs gloves and mittens.
- 11,500 papers garden seeds.
- 19,364 coats and jackets.
- 23,487 pairs pantaloons.
- 6,218 hair brushes.
- 97,912 coarse and fine combs.
- 19,507 palm leaf fans.
- 5,849 spit cups.
- 13,618 knives and forks.
- 150 wash boards.
- 1,541 pairs scissors.
- 70 cows.
- 1,786 chambers and bed pans.
- 13,168 bottles extracts.
- 12,973 bottles medicine and cough syrup.
- 3,500 pounds drugs and medicines.
- 28,702 bottles whisky and brandy.
- 173,909 bottles blackberry brandy and cordial.
- 18,773 bottles catawba, port, sherry, and domestic wines.
- 18,537 gallons ale and beer.
- 154,750 pounds ice.

- 2,556 pounds citric acid.
- 202,834 pounds apples, peaches, and small dried fruit.
- 74,191 pounds dried beef.
- 2,260 pounds nutmegs, cinnamon, and other spices.
- 4,210 pounds tea.
- 2,978 pounds coffee.
- 15,800 pounds sugar.
- 2,634 pounds sago and tapioca.
- 310,901 pounds flour, corn-meal and oat-meal.
- 42,776 pounds arrowroot, farina, and corn starch.
- 12,680 pounds cocoa, chocolate, and bromo.
- 281,637 pounds soda and pic-nic crackers.
- 29,036 pounds toasted bread or zwiebeck.
- 12,586 loaves bread.
- 39,271 pounds butter.
- 20,517 pounds cheese.
- 28,944 bottles catsup, mustard, and pepper sauce.
- 45,807 pounds codfish.
- 33,560 pounds mackerel and herring.
- 4,840 pounds Castile and washing soap.
- 2,641 pounds pressed hops.
- 2,573 pounds ground flax seed and elm bark.
- 206,159 gallons sauer kraut.
- 240,252 cans tomatoes, peaches, and other fruits.
- 30,818 jars jelly and blackberry jam.
- 48,630 cans condensed milk.
- 52,919 gallons pickles.
- 3,540 jars pickles.
- 139,860 bushels potatoes.
- 315,057 bushels onions.
- 130,090 dozen eggs.
- 2,976 gallons coal oil.
- 3,270 three-cent postage stamps.
- 28,520 cans oysters and spiced tripe.
- 26,550 cans chicken, turkey, and other canned meats.
- 38,680 cans cranberry and cabbage sauce.
- 1,789 cans apple and peach jam, and apple butter.
- 45,723 lemons and oranges.
- 1,745 heads cabbage.
- 10,779 bottles Flora and Catawba bitters.
- 3,448 bottles ginger wine and cordial.
- 28,485 cans portable lemonade.
- 26,305 pounds extract beef.
- 2,565 cans beef, vegetable, and chicken soup.

1,468 gallons molasses.
 2,963 pounds lard.
 12,850 bottles raspberry vinegar and lemon syrup.
 180 pounds cream tartar.
 1,700 pounds nails.
 2,000 shawls and gowns.
 26,800 cwt. straw and hay.
 190 pounds yeast powders.
 988 pounds bicarb. soda.
 1,848 corn brooms.
 7,840 pounds smoking tobacco.
 9,682 pounds chewing tobacco.
 2,970 pounds chlor. lime and disinfectant powder.
 540 pounds pearl barley.
 12,000 smoke pipes.
 2,500 pairs suspenders.
 4,957 women's and children's dresses.
 1,834 mosquito bars.
 2,587 papers pins and needles.
 45,752 yards material for dresses, &c.
 90,695 miscellaneous articles.
 980 cords wood.
 1,060 pounds salt.
 514 air beds.
 78 dozens pencils.
 65 stoves.
 150 ounces quinine.
 12,237 sets tea and table spoons.
 20,500 feet lumber.
 125 coffee mills.
 1,450 splints.
 25 clocks.
 150 scrubbing brushes.
 89 kettles.
 1,585 bottles cologne and bay rum.

Total, 4,218,922 articles. Estimated value, \$3,500,000.

On the 9th of May, 1864, just previous to the holding of the Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair, the estimated value of sanitary stores received and distributed to the army of the West, and to the navy of the Mississippi, up to that date, was one and a quarter million of dollars. The amount of money received was \$178,940.79, all of which

had been expended (except a balance of \$19,866.76), in sanitary stores for the army and naval flotilla of the West, and for expenses of the Commission and its agencies, which amounted to less than one and a half per cent. of the value of the distributions.

The net receipts from the Fair were five hundred and fifty-four thousand five hundred and ninety-one dollars (\$554,591).

From the 9th of May, 1864, to the close of the year 1865, the cash receipts and expenditures of the Commission were as follows :

CASH RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

FROM MAY 9, 1864, TO DECEMBER 31, 1865.

To balance on hand May 9, 1864.....	\$ 19,866.75
“ receipts from Miss. Val. San. Fair.....	554,591.00
“ contributions received since May 9, 1864	37,467.55

EXPENDITURES.

By office and warehouse expenses..	\$524.85
“ telegraph.....	22.80
“ postage.....	310.20
“ rents.....	4,213.00
“ insurance.....	375.00
“ salaries of Secretary, clerks, and laborers.	7,092.30
“ publication of reports, printing, advertising, and stationery.....	2,630.85
“ agents' salaries, and expenses of distribu- tion in the field.....	11,512.95
“ supplies furnished.....	345,047.50
“ expenses of Soldiers' Home at St. Louis....	7,663.85
“ “ Soldiers' Home at Columbus..	150.00
“ “ Soldiers' Home at Memphis...	4,033.05
“ “ Soldiers' Home at Helena.....	395.75
“ “ Soldiers' Home at Vicksburg..	4,710.80
“ aid to soldiers and soldiers' families.	29,626.95
“ “ hospitals and nurses.....	1,121.85
“ “ refugees.....	17,511.65
“ “ freedmen.....	16,605.50
“ purchase of Freedmen's Orphan Asylum..	7,000.00

By	furnishing and expenses Orphan Asylum..	4,986.65	
"	purchase of Soldiers' Orphans' Home at Webster.....	17,195.00	
"	additional buildings for Home at Webster.	20,000.00	
"	appropriation to Ladies' Union Aid Society	50,000.00	
"	balance.....	59,193.80	
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$611,925.30	\$611,925.30

Balance on hand January 1, 1866, \$59,193.80.

The Commission does not deem it proper, even through its Secretary, to speak of the individual labors of its own members, further than to say that its funds have been kept, and its finances managed with great care, faithfulness, and good judgment, by its Treasurer, C. S. GREELEY, Esq., from whose accounts, as well as from those of the book-keeper at the Commission rooms, the foregoing statements are made.

For the accuracy of the accounts of the issues and expenditures of the Commission, and for the transaction of the business of its warerooms and store, its shipping, and many of its purchases, it is indebted to the faithful labors of Mr. JOSEPH McCULLOCH, its worthy cashier and storekeeper, and also to his predecessor, Mr. HENRY E. COLLINS.

The above balance of fifty-nine thousand one hundred and ninety-four dollars and sixty-one cents, ascertained from a careful examination of the books of the Treasurer and Cashier, is reserved, by the Commission, to meet future liabilities and expenditures for institutions already established, and for other useful objects yet to be accomplished, such as the support of the Soldiers' Home at St. Louis—still as much needed as ever; the further relief of soldiers' widows and orphans; aid promised conditionally to the Ladies' Union Aid Society; the Freedmen's Orphans' Home Association, and the Soldier's Orphans' Home at Webster, the latter to raise an endowment fund; and the other associations (in case of need), in the

continuation of their work. It has also determined to establish a Home for the indigent and helpless widows of deceased soldiers ; and the balance on hand will scarcely be sufficient to meet these much needed charities.*

The whole amount of cash received by the Commission for Sanitary purposes, during the war, has been \$770,998.55; and the estimated value of sanitary stores received is \$3,500,000, making a total of over four millions and a quarter of dollars (\$4,270,998.55), contributed to this Commission from private benevolence, for sanitary and humane objects ; and, (except the balance on hand, reserved for the completion of its humane work) distributed by this Commission, as already accounted for in this report.

Before closing this account of the work of the Western Sanitary Commission, the writer is enabled to give a list of names of some

* Since the foregoing report was written, while it has been going through the press, the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, at Webster, has reverted to the Commission, by the resignation of the first Board of Trustees and Board of Lady Managers; and, by an act of the Legislature, passed at its late session, a new Board of Trustees has been created, consisting of the members of the Commission, with the addition of two other gentlemen, as follows : JAMES E. YEATMAN, C. S. GREELEY, J. B. JOHNSON, M. D., GEORGE PARTRIDGE, WM. G. ELIOT, D. D., E. W. FOX, and T. B. EDGAR. On the organization of this Board JAMES E. YEATMAN was elected its President, and T. B. EDGAR its Secretary and Treasurer.

Since this organization was effected the Commission has appropriated \$25,000 for the future maintenance of the Home, which, added to the \$5,000 a year for ten years (\$50,000), appropriated by the State Legislature, and to the \$20,000 subscribed by individuals as an endowment, and placed at interest, secures the future usefulness of the institution, which is already accomplishing so much good for the destitute orphans of deceased soldiers of the republic. The new buildings, already referred to in the body of this report, are now completed (April 15th), and will be ready for occupancy on the 1st of May, making the entire accommodations of the Home sufficient for one hundred and sixty orphans.

The Soldier's Home of St. Louis has been continued the present winter (1866), and will be closed on the 1st of May. Arrangements have been made to continue the care, beyond that date, of some twenty-five disabled, indigent, discharged soldiers, for whom the military authority has recently set apart quarters at Jefferson Barracks, at the request of the Commission; leaving it, however, to meet the other expenses of their support, until the General Government shall make further provision for such cases.

The Commission has likewise employed Mrs. S. A. PLUMMER and Miss N. A. SHEPARD as Relief Visitors to the families of invalid and disabled soldiers, through whom it has, and will continue, to extend relief to this class of sufferers by the war. The labors of these noble women have proved very useful in this work, and they have carried, not only physical aid, but often spiritual comfort (of an unsectarian kind), to many sad homes.

Such are some of the ways in which the Commission is expending the balance of funds left on hand, and with which it proposes to do good, until the last dollar is faithfully expended, according to the intentions and wishes of its generous contributors.

of the generous contributors, who, during the progress of the great civil war, sustained its labors, and furnished it with the means of usefulness. It would be gratifying, if possible, to include the names of all, in every part of the country, who contributed to its resources, but to do so would increase this publication to several volumes ; and, besides, the record of many of them is with the local Soldier's Aid Societies, and not with the Commission. Of only two cities are we able to furnish even a partial list of our contributors ; namely, Boston and St. Louis.

The noble generosity of Boston towards the Western Sanitary Commission during the entire existence of the war, furnishes a remarkable instance of disinterested benevolence, as not one dollar of all the contributions given from that city was likely to benefit the soldiers that Massachusetts had sent to the field. Besides the money given for the Western troops, the sanitary articles sent were of the most valuable kind. In one instance, a New England lady, Mrs. THOMAS LAMB, set apart a room in her house as the "Missouri Room," and letting all her friends know of this convenient method of sending articles to St. Louis, as fast as boxes could be filled, she received and forwarded goods to the value of \$17,000, and in cash nearly as much more. In the winter of 1863, a number of gentlemen got up a contribution of \$35,000 in money, and forwarded it, through R. C. GREENLEAF, as Treasurer, to the Commission at St. Louis ; and these are mentioned now only as instances of the liberality of Boston, and the other towns and cities of New England, towards the work of the Western Sanitary Commission. It is found impossible to give the names of all the generous contributors, who, in New England and the other loyal sections of the Union, sent aid to this Commission ; but finding the names of the Boston contributors of the special donation of \$35,000, in January, 1863, in a recent volume entitled "The Tribute Book," published by Derby & Co., of N. Y., they

are inserted here as an additional acknowledgment of their noble generosity. The list of honored names is as follows: J. C. Howe & Co.; Gov. Andrew (from private funds placed in his hands), and Mrs. N. I. Bowditch, each \$1,000; Wm. Sturgis, \$800; C. F. Hovey & Co., J. M. Forbes, J. M. Beebe & Co., Gardner Colby, Daniel Denny, Naylor & Co., Nathaniel Thayer, David Sears, F. Skinner & Co., each \$500; Nathaniel Francis, Moses Williams, Oakes Ames & Son, Iasigi, Goddard & Co., each \$300; James Lawrence, P. C. Brooks, Martin Brimmer, Faulkner, Kimball & Co., J. L. Little & Co., Jordan, Marsh & Co., Joel Hayden, Hon. Samuel Hooper, H. P. Kidder, G. Howland Shaw, Albert Fearing, each \$250; D. N. Spooner, J. Huntington Wolcott, Wm. Amory, J. L. Gardner, W. Ropes & Co., Gardner Brewer, Sprague, Soule & Co., George Howe, T. Mandell, Miss M. A. Wales, C. W. Cartright, Foster & Taylor, each \$200; W. F. Weld & Co., Samuel Johnson, John C. Dalton, each \$150; Chandler & Co., W. P. Pierce, W. S. Bullard, C. A. Babcock, Theodore Matchett (Brighton), W. B. Spooner, Sewell, Day & Co., H. H. Hunnewell, W. H. Gardner, G. M. Barnard, J. M. Barnard, Jas. McGregor, Miss J. Mason, Jacob Bigelow, Jas. Parker, Miss Abba Loring, Abbott Lawrence, W. W. Churchill, Little, Brown & Co., T. Jefferson Coolidge, J. S. Farlow, Mrs. Heard (Watertown), Dr. Geo. Hayward, Oliver Ditson, R. W. Hooper, Mrs. C. Hooper, Miss E. Hooper, Bigelow Brothers & Kennard, Miss C. M. Adams, Charles Amory, J. G. Cushing, H. P. Sturgis, Wm. Parsons, B. F. Reed, Almy, Patterson & Co., Hogg, Brown & Taylor, Burrage Brothers & Co., John Borland, Geo. W. Wales, Otis, Daniel & Co., Grant, Warren & Co., "A Friend," A. Clafin & Co., W. Clafin & Co., Joshua Stetson, Joseph S. Fay, A. Wilkinson, Mrs. Sally Blake, Thaddeus Nichols, Augustus Lowell, Charles G. Loring, Israel Whitney, Benj. Burgess, W. Perkins, "Friend" (in Windsor Locks, Conn.), J. W. Brooks, Mrs. S. Wheelwright, John A.

Blanchard, Elisha Atkins, Nash, Spalding & Co., Glidden & Williams, Samuel Cabot, George P. Upham, John Duff, Quincy Shaw, William Hilton & Co., Wilson, Hamilton & Co., Mudge, Sawyer & Co., Jas. Haughton, J. Field, Alpheus Hardy, Geo. S. Holmes, W. T. Andrews, Ellis, Newell & Co., Mrs. L. B. Merriam, H. F. Durant, P. B. Brigham, B. S. Rotch, W. P. Mason, Burr Brothers & Co., Miss Sarah B. Pratt, Parker, Wilder & Co., John Gardner, Wm. Bramhall, J. R. Hall, W. D. Pickman, John Bertram, Richard S. Rogers, Francis Peabody, George Peabody, John C. Lee (last six of Salem), Wm. Monroe, Anderson, Sargent & Co., John H. Reed, A. G. Farwell & Co., Samuel A. Way, C. P. Curtis, Joseph Dix & Co., B. W. Williams, Ladies of Fitchburg, E. R. Mudge, Henry Callender, P. C. Brooks, Mrs. John Heard, Sewall, Day & Co., Margaret B. Blanchard (Harvard), H. P. Kidder, Joseph B. Glover, each \$100; George W. Colburn, John Homans, M. D., John Felt Osgood, each \$75; J. C. Hoadley (New Bedford), Geo. Bemis, Rev. F. A. Whitney (Brighton), George H. Kuhn, Geo. S. Winslow, Francis Bacon, C. H. Warren, W. S. Eaton, John C. Gray, E. L. Perkins, Mrs. James McGregor, Chas. E. Ware, N. C. Keep, M. D., G. D. Wells, John Simmons, Burr, Brown & Co., Geo. C. Shattuck, Mrs. N. Hooper, Miss M. I. Hooper, S. T. Morse, J. S. Amory, Geo. A. Gardner, Josiah Quincy, Isaac Thatcher, Jas. Davis, J. Amory Davis, Franklin Haven, G. W. Lyman, F. H. Story, Fisher & Chapin, Sidney Bartlett, P. T. Jackson, Geo. B. Emerson, Amos W. Stetson, Lydia Jackson, C. W. Loring, Potter, Nute, White & Bayley, Jas. Hayward, Smith Brothers & Co., Mrs. A. I. Hall, F. S. Nichols, Joseph Simes, Isaac Sweetser, Henry Lee, Geo. B. Cary, E. A. Boardman, Frothingham & Co., W. W. Tucker, C. C. Chadwick, Wright & Whitman, Claflin, Saville & Co., May & Co., Horatio Harris, Edward Atkinson, J. B. Glover, H. S. Richardson, Josiah Stickney, E. D. Peters & Co., Stephen Tilton & Co., J. H. Beal, Mar

shall Keyes, Aaron D. Weld, N. Harris, Robert Brookhouse, Mrs. Henry D. Cole, Mrs. C. Saltonstall, Mrs. Lucy B. Johnson, Z. F. Silsbee, J. S. Cabot, L. B. Harrington, Miss Hannah Hodges (the last eight of Salem), E. S. Rand (Newburyport), J. C. Tyler & Co., E. S. Rand, J. L. Gardner, jr., Thomas F. Cushing, Henry Upham, Charles Stoddard, N. Boynton, E. Williams & Co., Plumer & Co., Rice & Davis, Faxon Brothers, John Jeffries, jr., Hart, Baldwin & Boutume, Augustus Story (Salem), Henry Callender, Mrs. Chas. F. Hovey, A. A. Lawrence, Wm. Bellamy, Henry A. P. Carter, Miss Loring, Joseph H. Thayer, Wm. B. Spooner, James Parker, Emily M. Adams, George S. Winslow, Thomas Bulfinch, E. L. Perkins, Mrs. Samuel Hall, jr., Col. J. W. Seaver, Mrs. John Heard (hospital stores), Thomas J. Lee, Miss Richardson, each \$50; J. Randolph Coolidge, Williams & Everett (proceeds of exhibition), Joseph Greeley, J. F. Edmands, C. H. Cummings, Samuel Gould, A. B. Almond (Salem), Shreve, Stanwood & Co., Mrs. John C. Dalton, Mrs. W. H. Goodwin, Robt. C. Winthrop, J. D. Farnsworth, Waldo Higginson, Geo. W. Tilden, E. Townsend, Silas Potter, F. A. Hawley & Co., Josiah Quincy, jr., Misses Quincy, Alex. Strong & Co., John Ware, John Cummings, jr., Charles Choate, James Maguire, Wm. H. Dunbar, Stone, Wood & Co., Eastman, Fellows & Weeks, Edward Craft, Amos Cummings, J. C. Converse & Co., Magnire & Campbell, Tappan, McBurney & Co., H. Montgomery, Rev. C. A. Bartol, Mrs. M. R. Wendell, C. O. Whitmore, C. C. Gilbert, Palmer & Bachelder, E. M. Welch, Mrs. Welch, Mrs. Louisa Peabody, Mrs. C. G. Loring, Baldwin & Curry, Mrs. O. W. Holmes, J. S. Lovering, Mrs. F. A. Sawyer, Franklin Evans, Ripley Ropes, Jacob A. Dresser, each from \$25 to \$50; sums under \$25 given anonymously, and contributions of stores, \$1,726.00. This was but one of various contributions from Boston, acknowledgments of which have been made in previous reports, and elsewhere in these pages.

Besides the report already given in this volume, pp. 5-13, of the receipts of the Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair, it is thought proper to add the names of the merchants and other citizens of St. Louis, who gave large sums, in cash, to inaugurate and put in successful operation that noble enterprise, as well as to swell its gross receipts. The list is from the records of this Commission and the books of the Treasurer of the Fair, SAMUEL COPP, Jr., Esq., and comprises the names of persons and institutions giving from \$8,630 downwards, in the following order, viz: Aggregate contributions of several Dry Goods Houses (names not given), \$8,630; Grocers in Sixth Ward (names not given), \$6,350; James H. Lucas, \$5,250; Boatmen's Savings Institution, \$5,000; Merchants' Exchange \$5,000; Belcher's Sugar Refinery, \$3,500; Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, by Samuel Copp, Jr., \$3,000; Government Employees' Association, M. V. S. F., \$2,844.50; State Savings Association, \$2,500; Donations of Public Schools, by Ira Divoll, \$2,512.25; Henry A. Homeyer & Co., \$2,300; Gaslight Company, \$2,000; Mepham & Brothers, \$1,750; Associated Clerks' Committee, \$1,685.50; Northern Line of Packets, \$1,600; Lyon, Shorb & Co., and Geo. D. Hall, \$1,500; City Clerks' Association, \$1,445; Keokuk Packet Company, \$1,400; Memphis Packet Company, \$1,400; Henry Ames & Co., \$1,350; L. N. Bonham, by entertainments and cash donations of the pupils and teachers of his Seminary, \$1,283.50; Hon. Henry T. Blow, \$1,048.14; James Archer; Grocers in Fifth Ward; Building and Savings Association; Francis Whittaker, Sons & Co.; Hudson E. Bridge; Barton Able & Co.; George Partridge & Co.; Schulenberg & Boeckeler; Graff, Bennett & Co.; McKee, Fishback & Co.; David Nicholson; Pratt & Fox; John J. Roe & Co.; Richardson & Co.; St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad Co.; New York Life Insurance Co., by E. Morrison, each \$1,000; Employees in Quartermaster's Department, by Capt. E. D. Chapman; Illinois River Packet Company; Robinson & Howe's Circus; Chicago and Alton

Railroad; Ladies' Association of Tenth Ward (proceeds of ball); Committee of Ladies of Seventh and Eighth Wards (proceeds of ball); Hayden & Wilson; Giles F. Filley; Reformed Presbyterian Church, by Rev. Mr. McCracken, pastor; Butcher's Association (proceeds of five head of cattle); Employees of Morrison Hall; Horace Holton; St. Louis Union Association; J. D. Stanbridge; Employees of Captain Wallace; D. A. January and others; Rev. Wm. G. Eliot, D. D. (from Boston friends); Allen, Copp & Nesbit; Crow, McCreery & Co.; Bridge, Beach & Co.; Capt. Jos. Brown; E. H. Smith; Lumbermen and Mechanics' Insurance Company; Lamb & Quinlin; St. Louis Agency of Manhattan Life Insurance Company; Adolphus Meier & Co.; Mary Institute (proceeds of concert of scholars); A. S. Merritt; North Missouri Railroad Company; North St. Louis Savings Association; Second National Bank; Third National Bank; John O'Fallon; Phoenix Insurance Company; Pike & Kellogg; Pacific Railroad Company; J. B. Sickles; N. Schaeffer & Co.; St. Louis Insurance Company; A. F. Shapleigh & Co.; J. B. Sickles & Co.; Stanard, Gilbert & Co.; Tunstall & Holme; United States Insurance Company; United States Savings Institution; Wiggins Ferry Company, by H. L. Clark, Secretary; Wm. Young & Co.; Young Brothers & Co.; Boatmen's Insurance and Trust Company; Crozier & Baxter; Citizen's Insurance Company; Chouteau, Harrison & Valle; James Clark & Co.; Franklin Savings Institution; Franklin Insurance Company; Reformed Presbyterian Church; Home Mutual Insurance Company; McCord, Sanger & Steel, each from \$953.50 to \$500 inclusive: Collection in Private Schools; Government Employees' Association, by H. H. Wernse; Seventh Cavalry M. S. M.; John G. Copelin; Dgagett & Morse; Students of City University; Samuel Gaty; W. M. Morrison; Employees on track of eastern division of Pacific Railroad and Southwest Branch; Wm. D'Oench; Employees of Ubsdell, Barr, Duncan & Co.; Fritz, Leysalt & Bennett; Warne, Cheever & Co.; Collier Lead

Company; Gaylord, Sons & Co.; Dwight Durkee; Great Republic Insurance Company; W. Chauvenet, Chancellor of Washington University (donation from students); Hillman Brothers; Marine Insurance Company; Ticknor & Co.; Harmonia Glee Club; Samuel C. Davis; Joseph Gartside and 149 employees; Henry Martin; Employees of Pacific Railroad; Pupils of Missouri Institute for the Blind (proceeds of a concert); Jameson, Cotting & Co; Levi Ashbrook & Co.; Atlantic Insurance Company; M. Creesy & Co.; Chapman & Thorp; Citizens Railroad Company, by A. R. Easton; Dutcher & Co.; R. & J. B. Fenby; First National Bank; Globe Mutual Insurance Company; Samuel H. Gardiner; Henning & Woodruff; Howe & Capen, N. Y. Insurance Company; Lackland & Christopher; Lockwood & Wider; Ladue, Tousey & Co; Merchants' Bank; John S. McCune; People's Savings Institution; Pacific Insurance Co.; Real Estate Savings Institution; St. Louis Railroad Co.; L. and C. Speck & Co.; Steamboat Hope; Tyler, Davidson & Co.; Ubsdell, Barr, Duncan & Co.; Union Insurance Company; R. P. Studley & Co.; Grocers in First Ward; Grocers in Seventh Ward; Several Dealers in Stoves and Tinware; Cloth and Clothing Committee; Employees of Sectional Dock Company; Twelve Groves of the Ancient Order of Druids; Marshall & Kilpatrick; First Regiment Enrolled Missouri State Militia, Colonel Fenn; Francis Whittaker & Co.; Asa Wilgus; Wm. Young & Co., each from \$455.70 to \$250 inclusive: Employees of Goodwin, Anderson & Co.; Bakers' Committee (collection from the trade); Journeyman Horse Collar Makers; Mr. Barr and others; G. Bayha & Co.; Chas. Beardslee & Brother; F. B. Chamberlain & Co.; J. F. Comstock & Co.; Continental Packet Company; Nathan Colman; Grocers in the Eighth Ward; Colonel and Mrs. Dick; L. D. Dameron; Samuel Gaty; Charles Holmes; A. C. Hoffman (by will); William Jessup & Sons; H. N. Kendall & Co.; McKay & Hood; Naples Packet Company; Colonel John O'Fallon;

J. & W. Patrick; H. O. Pearce & Co.; Albert Pearce; steamboat John J. Roe and owners; steamboat Pauline Carroll; steamboat J. H. Dickey; Alton Packet Co.; Levi H. Baker; steamboats Welcome, Imperial, Louisville, Maria Denning, Glasgow, Iatan, Leviathan, W. K. Arthur, Julia, Henry Ames, J. E. Swan, City of Memphis, Stephen Decatur, Colorado, J. H. Lacey, Continental, Emma, Omaha, Empress, Edward Walsh, New Iowa, Olive Branch, (each \$200); John Tilden; Officers and men of steamboat Fisher; Government Employees at Benton Barracks; Marine Committee; Z. F. Wetzell & Co.; Hiram Crittenden, each from \$245.50 to \$200 inclusive: R. A. Barnes; Miss Emily Shaw (from Readings and Tableaux); Mrs. Puroget; Rev. W. H. Corkhill (from Tableaux at Benton Barracks); G. Walbrecht; Mary Institute (for Readings by J. J. Bailey); D. A. January; G. Bummermaunt & Co.; Peter E. Blow; Buddecke & Droege; Wm. Glasgow, Jr.; Saint Peters' Church (for Children's Pic-nic); A. W. Howe, Agent New York Insurance Companies; Hope Mutual Fire Insurance Company; C. & R. Michelman; Colonel James Peckham; Tesson & Danjen; Young Brothers; Stokes & Sheets; Employees of Wiggins' Ferry Company; Evangelical Protestant Church of Emanuel; A. W. Fagin; A. S. Merritt; South M. E. Church, by Levi H. Baker; Mr. Rossfeldt, for St. Louis Vocal Association; Merchants' Exchange; Moody, Michel & Co.; Mission Free School; Sterling & Co.; Berthold & Thompson; C. I. Filley; Ladies' Union League; German Evangelical Lutheran Church; Robert Charles; Joseph Garneau; Spurry, Chalfant & Co.; St. Louis Lodge No. 5, I. O. O. F.; Schuetze & Eggers; John A. Smithers & Brother; C. F. Schultz & Brother; Shamrock Benevolent Society; Steam Boiler Makers' Association; John R. Shepley; James T. Sweringen and wife; G. & W. Todd & Co.; Miss Mary Thomas; D. S. Thompson; W. F. Ulman; John C. Vogel; White & Haas; Captain Daniel White; Wilson & Atwell; J. Weil & Brother; Wash-

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Excelsior B. B. Clubs; Employees of Goodwin & Anderson; S. R. Fox; James L. Benson; Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society (colored); J. E. Shanghan; Mr. Gruber's School; Travelers' Rest Lodge No. 1, I. O. O. F.; Snow & Helgenberg; Dr. Chas. I. Carpenter; Jas. Coff; Samuel W. Eager; Josiah C. Brown and wife; R. J. Rombauer; Byan Cross; Missouri Lodge No. 2, Bohemian Benevolent Society; Employees of Kingsland & Ferguson's Foundry; Provision Committee; Prange & Brother; Heller & Hoffman; Conrades & Longeman; G. & L. Vollmer; Missouri Lodge No. 11, I. O. O. F.; Pupils of St. Joseph Parochial School; Pupils of St. Louis Parochial School; Aaron Blake; W. A. Jones; M. Westerman; C. W. Spalding; Henry Barron; Isaiah Forbes; W. H. Eames; Isaac Comstock; Edward Hale; L. I. Brackett; Miss Eliza A. Wright; Miss Martha C. Wright; Wm. Brenton Boggs; Anthon Memminger; Edward Trabue; Louis Schneider; T. H. Chadwell; Irwin Z. Smith; Henry Hitchcock; John M. Krum; John D. Coalter; N. McDowell; Sharp & Broadhead; James Taussig; R. Kellar; A. D. Sloan; M. Wright; A. Dienst; G. W. Frauernicht; Wm. N. Morrison; C. W. Gill; H. Judde; Excelsior Lodge No. 18, I. O. O. F.; Christian Church; McCutcheon & Williams; John Brigham; A. M. Leslie; Company D, National Guards; Jacob L. Merritt; St. Louis Telegraph Office; Samuel Reber; Ernst W. Decker; L. Babcock; Joseph Jecko; E. R. Bates; Henry A. Clover; Wm. Bliss Clark; Warren Currier; A. M. Gardner; James K. Knight; Nathaniel Holmes; Samuel M. Breckinridge; A. J. P. Garesche; E. Sherman; John N. Straat; Willard & Co.; C. H. Bell; R. Ulrici; N. H. Clark; Wm. Glasgow; S. Levison; A. F. Meyers; D. L. Davidson; M. Strauss & Co.; P. H. Jones; F. A. Durgin; Pupils of the Union High School; M. I. De Franca; Albert Fege; Horse Shoers in Sixth Ward; Wm. Bosbyshell (collection); Mr. Holledge (collection); J. McKittrick & Co.; Mrs. Penelope Allen; each sums varying from \$75 to \$25, with a few \$10 subscriptions.

Besides these contributions, in cash, from the citizens of Saint Louis, many of the same contributors gave largely and generously in *goods* to the Fair; the Common Council also appropriated \$20,000 towards the same object; and the St. Louis County Court made a gift of the Smizer Farm, which realized \$40,000.

The whole contribution in cash amounted to \$200,000, and having been included in the Financial Report of the Fair, as given on pages 5-13 of this work, is there accounted for, in the general receipts and expenses of the enterprise.

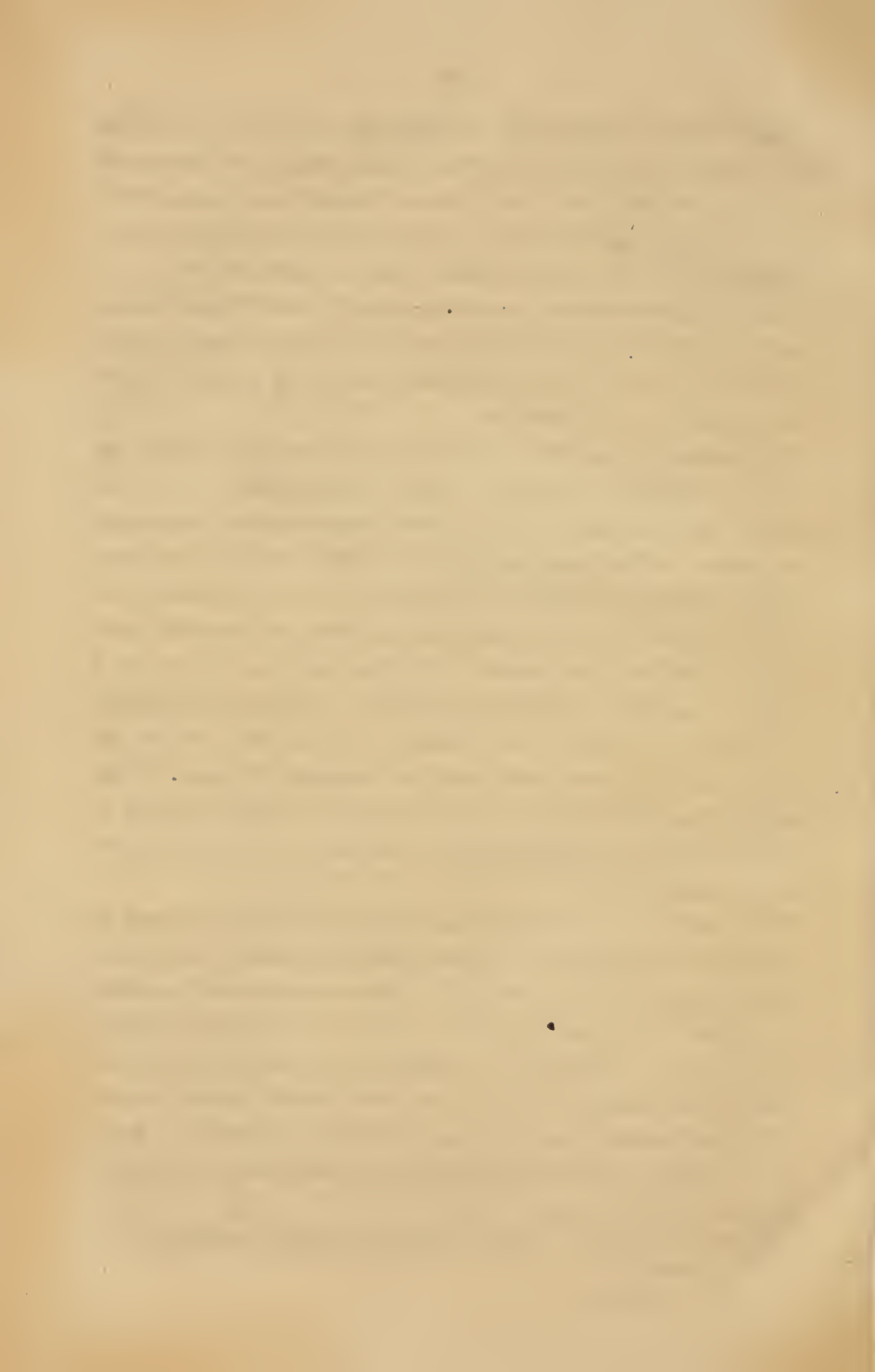
In concluding this Final Report of its history and labors, the Western Sanitary Commission desires to give thanks to all its friends and contributors in the loyal States,—to the noble men and women of the East, and North, and West, who have so generously aided and sustained it during the war, and enabled it to perform a great and good work for the cause of American patriotism, civilization, and liberty. Hundreds of thousands, whom it cannot name, but whose generous spirit is felt and recognized, have, from all parts of the country that remained true to the Union, stretched forth their hands to strengthen it, and by their generous benefactions, have grasped the hands of their brothers in arms, bade them be of good cheer, and invoked God's blessing upon their righteous cause.

Now that the day of victory and peace has come, for which so many heroes and patriots—from the martyred President of the nation to the private soldier who lies in an unknown grave—have sacrificed their lives, the Commission gives thanks to the Sovereign Ruler and Disposer of events for the successful termination of the war, and the establishment of our Union and liberties on the basis of justice and universal freedom,—a consummation to which its members, for more than four years, have given their hearts and hands, their hopes and prayers.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION :

J. G. FORMAN,

Secretary.



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